



Together, Investing in Municipal Excellence

WASHINGTON SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 2025

723 S. Lewis Street, Room 2073
Stillwater, OK 74074
11:30 AM

Members Present: Karen Washington, Laura Arata, James Beckstrom (11:35), Norman McNickle, Kay Stewart, Gary Clark, Thomas Fields

Members Absent: Ann Houston, Calvin Miller, Jessie Sims, Clyde Wilson

Staff: Deputy City Manager Christy Driskel and Assistant City Attorney Ashlyn Garis

- 1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Washington called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

- 2. General Orders

The Washington School Advisory Committee will hear a staff presentation, discuss, and take action including a vote or series of votes on each item listed as presented or as amended or revised by the Washington School Advisory Committee unless the agenda entry specifically states that no action will be taken. The requested action is indicated in each agenda entry but may be amended or revised prior to action by the Washington School Advisory Committee.

a.	<p>Approval of October 14, 2025 special meeting minutes.</p> <p>MOTION BY ARATA, SECOND BY CLARK TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 14, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.</p> <p>ROLL CALL: WASHINGTON-YEA, ARATA-YEA, MCNICKLE-YEA, CLARK-YEA, FIELDS-YEA, STEWART-YEA.</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX YEA VOTES.</p>
b.	<p>Update from the Washington School Heritage Foundation. No action will be taken on this item.</p>

James Beckstrom presented the update from the Washington School Heritage Foundation. He stated that the focus right now is the "T" structure of the building but of course everything is dependent on funding. Another high priority is the gymnasium roof and the next step after that will be architectural design work for redevelopment of the "T" structure and more broadly the block. He stated that they would like to get the gymnasium into service as soon as possible, so it is accessible and usable by the community. Mr. Beckstrom reported the rough estimate is \$5 million to complete the renovations and the hope is to have the renovations completed by 2029. He presented the Washington School Heritage Foundation volunteer/in-kind donor 2026/27 work outlook. Mr. McNickle stated that everything but the structural work would be volunteer.

- c. Discussion and possible action for next steps in the redevelopment process of Washington School.

Deputy City Manager (DCM) Christy Driskel provided an update regarding the Washington School redevelopment.

Key Points: The council approved the bid for the demolition of accessory structures and asbestos abatement, with work scheduled to begin on Monday. The project is under budget, including contingencies for potential groundwork. Restoration efforts will include the installation of sod for erosion control, which may initially appear unattractive. Once the fence is erected, no entry will be allowed into the site due to safety regulations. DCM Driskel stated that the demolition is expected to be finished by the end of January and the project remains within the \$200,000 budget approved by the Tourism Advisory Committee.

DCM Driskel reported that there have been discussions with the Legal Department focused on developing a structured work plan for future funding and project phases. The work plan should be presented to Council after the first of the year and broken down into specific work tasks, such as roof repairs, structural changes and interior renovations. No city funds will be used for this project, allowing for more flexibility in the funding and execution of work. Individual work projects can be proposed and reviewed on a case-by-case basis, allowing for community involvement without public bidding requirements. The site access agreement may be structured broadly for multiple projects, depending on the scope of work. DCM Driskel stated that specific insurance and liability requirements must be confirmed before work begins. The work plan needs to ensure that all activities are compliant with safety regulations and that liability is covered.

Discussion was held regarding redevelopment financing and planning. DCM Driskel stated that any request for additional funding from the Tourism Advisory Committee should be treated as a separate project. The committee emphasized the need for

	<p>clear communication regarding the use of city funds to avoid complications. A plan to ensure all funding sources are accounted for was proposed, including volunteer contributions. Discussion was held on how volunteer workdays would be scheduled and conducted regarding City sponsored versus Washington School Heritage Foundation sponsored.</p>
d.	<p>General discussion and possible recommendation to the City Council regarding the assessment, proposed design, renovation or redevelopment of the Washington School property.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding the work plan to present to City Council. A work plan review could be presented to City Council on February 9, 2026, or February 23, 2026, after the demolition is completed. Members agreed to aim for February 9 and will confirm attendance closer to the date.</p> <p>No action was taken on this item.</p>

3. Public Comment

None.

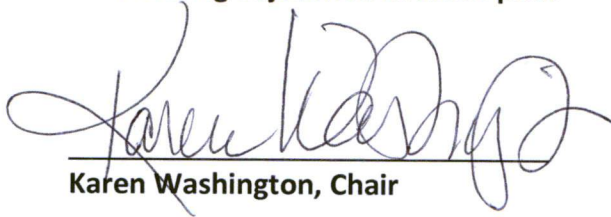
4. Adjourn

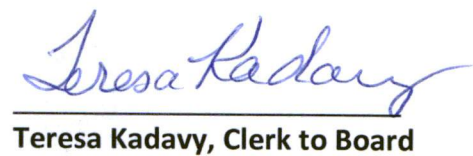
MOTION BY ARATA, SECOND BY STEWART TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 2, 2025 REGULAR MEETING.

ROLL CALL: WASHINGTON-YEA, ARATA-YEA, BECKSTROM-YEA, MCNICKLE-YEA, CLARK-YEA, FIELDS-YEA, STEWART-YEA.

MOTION CARRIED WITH SEVEN YEA VOTES.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.


 Karen Washington, Chair


 Teresa Kadavy, Clerk to Board