



Together, Investing in Municipal Excellence

**WASHINGTON SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**  
APRIL 7, 2026

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

Karen Washington, Laura Arata, James Beckstrom, Norman McNickle, Gary Clark, Thomas Fields, Ann Houston, Calvin Miller, Jessie Sims, Kay Stewart, Clyde Wilson

- 1. Call Meeting to Order
- 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.	Approve February 3, 2026 meeting minutes.
b.	Update from Washington School Heritage Foundation. No action will be taken on this item.
c.	Discussion and possible action for next steps in the redevelopment process of Washington School.
d.	General discussion and possible recommendation to the City Council regarding the assessment, proposed design, renovation or redevelopment of the Washington School property.

- 3. Public Comment
- 4. Adjourn

On April 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM, a true and correct copy of this agenda was posted on the kiosk outside City Hall, 723 S. Lewis Street, Stillwater, OK.

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The City of Stillwater encourages participation from all citizens. If participation at any public

meeting is not possible due to a disability, please notify the City Manager's office at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by calling 405.742.8243.

- Find meeting agendas and minutes online at [Agendas and Minutes](#)
- Official minutes are archived in the City Clerk's office.



Together, Investing in Municipal Excellence

**WASHINGTON SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
FEBRUARY 3, 2026

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

**Members Present:** Karen Washington, Jim Beckstrom, Norman McNickle, Gary Clark, Thomas Fields, Kay Stewart

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

**Staff:** Deputy City Manager Christy Driskel, Assistant City Attorney Ashlyn Garis, City Clerk Teresa Kadavy

- 1. Call Meeting to Order

**Chair Washington called the meeting to order at 11:30 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 December 2, 2025 meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY MCNICKLE TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 2, 2025 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.</b></p> <p><b>ROLL CALL: WASHINGTON-YEA, BECKSTROM-YEA, MCNICKLE-YEA, CLARK-YEA, FIELDS-YEA, STEWART-YEA.</b></p> <p><b>MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX YEA VOTES</b></p>
b.	<p>Update from Washington School Heritage Foundation. No action will be taken on this item.</p>

Washington School Heritage Foundation President Jim Beckstrom reported there will be a fundraising Gala on February 27, 2026 with the goal of raising \$150,000. The theme will be "Businesses Past and Present", celebrating pre-segregation businesses while recognizing current Black-owned businesses. Mr. Beckstrom reported that the Foundation is partnering with OSU for technology. The Foundation aims to lean heavily on technology for the educational elements of redevelopment. The goal is to create adaptive spaces that can transition from a heritage center to a meeting room at the flip of a switch.

Mr. Beckstrom stated that the \$150,000 covers the roof replacement, structural remediation, and essential masonry. While the massive steel girders and redwood rafters are in good shape, the "pockets" where rafters meet the brick wall on the north end have experienced water encroachment and rot. While some masonry work is cosmetic, the Foundation aims to complete it now while scaffolding is in place for the roof to maximize cost-effectiveness. A previous bid of \$120,000 covered decking, insulation, membrane, flashing, and gutters. The updated \$150,000 target includes the newly discovered pocket remediation and high-level masonry ties.

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

Deputy City Manager Christy Driskel reported that recent weather has pushed the contractor back approximately two weeks. Work is expected to be completed by the end of February to avoid tearing up the site while it is muddy. She stated that a temporary "stop-gap" phase using straw and sod will be implemented to mitigate runoff before final landscaping occurs at a more appropriate temperature. Ms. Driskel stated that a sign has been placed on the construction fence to clarify that the building is being restored, not demolished. This has significantly reduced concerned calls and generated positive community feedback.

Ms. Driskel stated that from the City's perspective the next steps needed would be for the committee to recommend the 2026 Work Plan to Council. Approval of this plan is the "byproduct" that allows her and Mr. Beckstrom to execute a Site Access Agreement.

The committee discussed the "Into the Streets" cleanup day, tentatively set for March 29th. Mr. Beckstrom credited the success of previous workdays to the City's support, specifically citing the provision of dumpsters and debris removal.

No action was taken on this item.

d. General discussion and possible recommendation to the City Council regarding the assessment, proposed design, renovation or redevelopment of the Washington School property.

**Mr. Beckstrom presented and discussed pictures of the slide presentation that will be presented to Council. He outlined the roadmap for the first half of 2026, noting that all progress is contingent on fundraising:**

- **Priority 1: Install a new roof on the gymnasium.**
- **Priority 2: Secure \$400,000–\$500,000 for a full architectural study.**
- **Interim Work: Before a final architectural plan is completed, the Foundation will focus on "non-structural" prep work, which includes removing suspended ceilings, outdated plumbing and electrical systems, power-washing graffiti in the gym, and emergency patching on the north building to stop active water leaks.**

**Discussion began regarding the long-term management and funding of the facility. The committee agreed that the design must align with a clear operational plan.**

**Staff reiterated that there is currently no future city funding allocated for the restoration beyond the initial Tourism Advisory funds.**

**MOTION BY STEWART, SECOND BY BECKSTROM FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DESIGNATE KAREN WASHINGTON AND JIM BECKSTROM TO PRESENT TO CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup> TO RECEIVE APPROVAL OF THE 2026 SCOPE OF WORK PLAN AND DIRECT CITY STAFF TO FINALIZE A SITE ACCESS AGREEMENT.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX YEA VOTES**

3. Public Comment

**None.**

4. Adjourn

**MOTION BY CLARK, SECOND BY MCNICKLE TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 3, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING.**

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

**MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX YEA VOTES.**

Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

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Karen Washington, Chair

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Teresa Kadavy, Clerk to Board

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