



Together, Investing in Municipal Excellence

**WASHINGTON SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

MAY 5, 2026, 11:30 AM

723 S. Lewis Street, Room 2073  
Stillwater, OK 74074

**Members Present:** Laura Arata, James Beckstrom, Norman McNickle, Ann Houston, Kay Stewart, Clyde Wilson

**Members Absent:** Karen Washington, Gary Clark, Thomas Fields, Calvin Miller, Jessie Sims

**Staff:** Deputy City Manager Christy Driskel, Assistant City Attorney Ashlyn Garis, Deputy City Clerk Autumn Flowers

- 1. Call Meeting to Order

**James Beckstrom 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>Approve April 7, 2026 meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>MOTION BY ARATA, SECOND BY HOUSTON TO APPROVE THE APRIL 7, 2026 MEETING MINUTES.</b></p> <p><b>ROLL CALL: ARATA-YEA, BECKSTROM-YEA, MCNICKLE-YEA, HOUSTON-YEA, STEWART-YEA, WILSON-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 James Beckstrom gave insight on how the foundation has been engaged in strategic planning. The focus areas are operational strategy and engagement with strategic partners, including City of Stillwater, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater Public Schools, Oklahoma Historical Society, the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Stillwater Public Library, and Stillwater History Museum. A recurring topic within the Foundation is the need to formalize the relationship between the Foundation and the City of Stillwater. Beckstrom provided an update on the Foundation's conversations with a roofing supplier. A general contractor has volunteered their time to manage the project at no cost.

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

DCM Driskel shared that Chair Washington has reported OSU requested access to measure the faux fireplace, carpet, and curtains so they could be removed to allow for wall repair work. McNickle questioned if the bill has been received for the final demolition sodding. DCM Driskel stated the invoices are still coming in due to the dirt work. Once those invoices are received, action will be taken with City Council to redeposit the funds into the Tourism Advisory Account. Arata is completing the historical marker application to submit to the Oklahoma Historical Society, which will fund and install the historical marker. Beckstrom discussed covering the gymnasium windows for the benefit of keeping animals out. He raised a concern about not having natural light or airflow in the gymnasium. The committee agreed to leave the windows as they are for now.

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

**None.**

3. Reports from Committee Members or Staff

Beckstrom was very happy with the sod. Houston questioned where the sod came from, with DCM Driskel answering that it was in the bid package.

4. Public Comment

**None.**


5. Adjourn

MOTION BY MCNICKLE, SECOND BY WILSON TO ADJOURN THE MAY 5, 2026 MEETING.

ROLL CALL: ARATA-YEA, BECKSTROM-YEA, MCNICKLE-YEA, HOUSTON-YEA,  
STEWART-YEA, WILSON-YEA.

MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX YEA VOTES.

Meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

  
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~~Karen Washington, Chair~~  
James A. Beckstrom

  
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Autumn Flowers, Deputy Clerk