

**The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

Members Present	Members Absent
Vanessa Adams Harris	Elizabeth Battiest
Susan Arkeketa	Shari (Channa) Williams
Daniel Carter	
Cheryl Cohenour	
Joe Deere	
Sammy Haynes	
Stacey Laskey	
Winnie Perdue	
Pat Powell	
Matt Roberts	
Teresa Runnels	
Kim Teehee	
Dorcas Williams	

- I. Call to Order and Introductions**
 - a. Commissioner Deere calls the meeting to order at 6:03 pm
- II. Land Acknowledgment**
- III. Approval of Minutes: <https://bit.ly/GTAIAC02152022>**
 - a. Commissioner Deere requests a motion to approve the minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour motions to approve the February meeting minutes
 - ii. Commissioner Laskey seconds the motion to approve the February meeting minutes
 - iii. The meeting minutes unanimously approved
- IV. Vote to send a letter urging Congress to seat Congresswomen Kimberly Teehee as Cherokee Nations delegate as confirmed in the 1835 Treaty of New Echota.**
 - a. Commissioner Haynes reads the drafted letter out loud in support of Commissioner Teehee being sat as the Cherokee Nation delegate, and then passes it to all commissioners to be signed.
- V. Discussion of County Appointee Organizations**
 - a. Commissioner Deere informs the commission that the county has recently reached out to request recommendations for county appointments.
 - i. Commissioner Deere requests that the commissioners send him any recommendations for individuals or organizations that they believe should be considered.

1. Commissioner Williams reminds the commissioners that the criteria for appointment to the commission are detailed within the bylaws for reference.

VI. Chair's Report

- a. Commissioner Deere reports that he attended the inaugural Tribal relations committee meeting with city council.
 - i. Commissioner Arkeketa asks if any of the tribes have been active, were invited, or are aware that this committee was being formed.
 - ii. Commissioner Deere isn't sure but agrees and mentions that he isn't happy with how often the native community feels discarded by Tulsa city councilors and resolutions that could benefit their communities.
- b. Commissioner Deere reassures commissioner Arkeketa that the meeting was more of a brainstorming session on what the committee can do, more so that what the committee will be doing. There'll be time for future collaboration.
 - i. Commissioner Deere also states that tribal consultation was one of the biggest things that commissioner Deere advocated for, and not for any specific tribe. But tribal consultation will be one of biggest goals he has moving forward.
 - ii. He also mentions that Councilors are looking at making a Native American resolution much like the one that was passed for the Race Massacre.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Native American Day Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reports that the committee had their first meeting last week on zoom. The committee discussed themes, and artist selections. Past themes have included "protecting our children", and "rise to resilience".
 1. This year is leaning towards "Our Journey Continues", which will focus on elders and student stories. The stage is booked, parking is booked, and the biggest priority is working on what the parade route will look like, as well as beginning the parade permit process through the city.
- b. **Dream Keepers Committee**
 - i. **Dreamkeepers**
 - ii. Commissioner Roberts reports that the commission met last week and discussed the Dream Keepers Awards Ceremony.
 1. Commissioner Roberts passes around a description of current awards, as well as a spreadsheet of past award recipients updated by Commissioner Cohenour.
 2. One of the points of discussion for the committee involved combining awards to limit the challenge of nominating folks for the award.

- a. Commissioner Haynes comments on limiting the awards – he prefers to keep them as they are and if there isn’t a person who fits into a specific category, he thinks the commission should just skip the award for the year. Commissioner Haynes feels that many folks honor the family members and people who these awards have been named after, and it doesn’t feel appropriate, responsible, or ethical or traditional to change namesakes for the sake of branding. A namesake is also being honored.
- iii. Commissioner Cohenour partially agrees with Commissioner Haynes, and states that best practices would probably be to alter the methodology on how the commission makes and broadcasts the award for better branding purposes. She agrees that the community needs to know who’s being honored, and commissioners should also who these namesakes are- and it’s the commissions responsibility to try to do so.
 1. Commissioner Deere requests that commissioner Roberts discusses these points in the committee meeting and invite commissioner Haynes and Williams.
 2. Commissioner Carter also likes the idea of retaining the namesakes and agrees with Commissioner Haynes
 - a. Commissioner Cohenour suggests that the commission lean more so towards organizing by category rather than namesake to effectively honor and retain multiple namesakes.
 - b. Commissioner Williams mentions her struggle of also getting folks to submit to being horned to being honored by a specific person. She thinks categories might also be a viable option.
- c. Education Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Roberts reports that it’s currently spring break, and they committee will be soliciting names for the excellence awards sometime soon from Commissioner Williams.
 - ii. Commissioner Cohenour reports that on April 23rd, the NAD Committee will be cohosting with TPS Indian Education to host the “Dream Keepers Gathering” from 10am – 4pm in the new Dream Keepers Park.
 1. Commissioner Arkeketa asks if anyone will be promoting voting registration.
 2. Commissioner Deere mentions that rock the native vote will be present.
- d. Public Relations Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Haynes reports that the PR Committee did not meet, but they are regularly providing notices, flyers, and events through the listserv.

- ii. Commissioner Deere asks if a press release would be appropriate for the letter the commission is writing to congress.
 - 1. Krystal offers to investigate it, and report back when she has an answer.
- e. Bylaws Committee**
 - i. No report
- f. Cultural Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Williams reports that she met with a person who does work with the Denver, Colorado Indian club and shared commissioner Deere's email for future connection.
 - ii. Commissioner Williams asks if it'd be appropriate to discuss voting during the commission meetings.
 - 1. Commissioner Deere informs the commission that he has invited collaborators of "Rock the Native Vote" to the next commission meeting to discuss their efforts, progress, and goals for registering the native community to vote.
- g. Parks Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reports that the committee hasn't met, but is discussing the RFP, and ways to honor past dreamkeepers with plaques in the park.
 - 1. She informs the commission that mockups are being designed now for everyone to view – and that she is working to get the price of having those created and mounted.
 - 2. Commissioner Cohenour also reports that she's been checking into improvements at the park. There are currently broken light poles and cracks in the pavement. She hopes the commission can use money set aside from NAD to fix those things.
 - ii. Commissioner Williams asks to be invited to the next committee meeting.
 - iii. Commissioner Roberts asks if there was any update on the logo discussion.
 - 1. Commissioner Cohenour updates the commission that the City's communications department said no to an independent logo, but the commission can use the NAD brand as an image.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Commissioner Cohenour reports that house bill 3415 – the bill that will allow for electronic meetings, is on the floor & which hopefully means the commission can begin meeting and voting by zoom.
 - i. She reminds the commission that virtual meetings will require a roll call vote – something the commission doesn't currently practice.
 - ii. Commissioner Deere says that he's familiar w the process and feels comfortable with roll call – noting that it's repetitive but doable.
- b. Commissioner Williams has pushed to having electronic meetings in

IX. New Business

- a. Commissioner Laskey informs the commission that Olivia StandingBear was recently approved to the commission as the Osage Nation appointee.

X. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Williams mentions that her granddaughter will be graduating from Oklahoma State University this spring, as a member of the President’s honor roll.
- b. Commissioner Haynes informs the commission that the Tulsa Indian Club will be hosting it’s 70th annual powwow.
- c. Commissioner Deere congratulates Commissioner Runnels and her team for putting on a virtual ceremony this past Saturday, March 5th that honored Archie Mason. He informs the commission that the event was well received and had a high amount of community participation.
- d. Commissioner Adams- Harris informs the commission that “Story Corps” is currently in Tulsa and are soliciting stories from all Tulsans. She informs the commission that they have two locations – one on Greenwood, and the other at Tulsa Library.
 - i. She also informs the commission that the John Hope Franklin Symposium will be taking place from May 26-27 this year and will include Michael Eric Dyson as the keynote speaker.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Deere requests a motion for adjournment
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour makes a motion to adjourn
 - ii. Commissioner Williams seconds
 - iii. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm