



**The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
May 17, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>
Joe Deere	Vanessa Adams Harris
Daniel Carter	Susan Arkeketa
Susan Arkeketa	Elizabeth Battiest
Cheryl Cohenour	Dorcas Williams
Sammy Haynes	
Carly Griffith Hotvedt	
Stacey Laskey	
Waynetta Lawrie	
Linda Leaf	
Tinisha Mitchell	
Brandi Payton	
Winnie Perdue	
Pat Powell	
Matt Roberts	
Teresa Runnels	
Olivia StandingBear	
Kim Teehee	
Sharri (Channa) Williams	

- I. Call to Order and Introductions**
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Chairman Deere
    - i. Chairman Deere recognizes and welcomes commissioners Brandi Peyton, Linda Leaf, Waynetta Lawrie, and Tinisha Mitchell to the commission.
- II. Land Acknowledgment**
  - a. Read by Lachelle King
- III. Guest Speaker: Stephanie Taylor, Field Director, Rock the Native Vote**
  - a. Rock the Native Vote is a non-partisan, education and voter registration initiative dedicated to mobilizing and assisting tribes to vote.
    - i. Stephanie Taylor provides updates on the status of the organization’s initiatives to register and encourage native communities to vote for the upcoming 2022 elections.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: <https://bit.ly/04192022GTAIAC>**
  - a. Commissioner Griffith Hotvedt notes a discrepancy in last month’s meeting minutes.
    - i. Pending correction, Commissioner Deere requests a motion to approve the meeting minutes.
    - ii. Commissioner Teehee makes a motion to approve
    - iii. Commissioner Cohenour seconds

1. All in unanimous favor.

**V. Discussion Regarding Resolution for Tribal Acknowledgements from City Councilors**

- a. Commissioner Deere strikes the conversation and informs the commission that they'll move the discussion to next month's meeting.

**VI. Chair Report**

- a. Commissioner Deere reports that he's been advocating that city council be more present at Native events during the tribal relations committee meetings.
- b. The Special Olympics were held last month in Stillwater and included 3,300 athletes.

**VII. Students of Excellence Awards Ceremony**

- a. Commissioner Roberts briefly reports a save the date for October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Tulsa Native American Day and parade. The commission extends an open invitation to participate for all graduating seniors to be recognized.
- b. Commissioner Roberts formally welcomes the graduating seniors and expresses the commissions pride in the students. He provides background on the significance of the ceremony with the Indian Education Department at Tulsa Public Schools, which was founded in the early 70's.
  - i. Commissioner Roberts recognizes Commissioner Williams who serves as the coordinator for Indian Education and commissioner for the program, and thanks her for her efforts.
  - ii. Commissioner Roberts finishes by reminding the students that their accomplishments makes the hearts of the commission soar, and that this is a prestigious accomplishment.
- c. Commissioner Roberts formally begins the ceremony, and recognizes the following students:
  - Booker T. Washington High School: Emily Cross – Choctaw Nation
  - Central High School: Ariona Paylor – Mvskoke (Creek) Nation
  - Daniel Webster High School: Derek Marlow - Cherokee Nation
  - East Central High School: Dyhani Atkins – Mvskoke (Creek) Nation
  - Edison Preparatory High School: Elaina Workman – Mvskoke (Creek) Nation
  - Hale High School: Elexis Morin – Cherokee Nation
  - Memorial High School: Austin Borchert – Cherokee Nation
  - North Star Academy: Alexia Johnson - Mvskoke (Creek) Nation
  - Street School: Zaya Battles – Caddo Nation
  - Tulsa Virtual Academy: Kelen Pendleton – Cherokee Nation
  - Will Rogers College High School: Khyla Ross - Mvskoke (Creek) Nation

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm