



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting | October 15, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm
City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Cheryl Cohenour, Sammy Haynes, Stacy Laskey, Waynetta Lawrie, Winnie Perdue, Patsy Powell, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Kim Teehee, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams, Shari Williams

Commissioners Absent: Susan Arkeketa, Joe Deere, Carly Griffith Hotvedt, Warren Queton, Teresa Runnels

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour called the meeting to order at 6:02.

II. Roll Call

III. Land Acknowledgment

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Correction: Commissioner Haynes requested a copy of the signed bylaws during the Bylaws Committee report.
- b. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes.
 - i. Vice Chair Carter motioned to approve minutes with one change, Commissioner Waeltz seconded.
 1. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
- c. Motion approved.

V. Chair's and Vice Chair's Report

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour shared her reflections from Native American Day.
 - i. Received several compliments from the community. Positive feedback from attendees on the layout and large tent. Also complimented by TPD on the parade.
 - ii. The event had more sponsors and was larger than previous years.
 - iii. Need a parade marshal managing flow of parade to avoid gaps.
 - iv. There will be a wrap up meeting with the planning committee next week.
 - v. Had a few hiccups, several students stung by yellowjackets. Indian Healthcare did not bring first aid or a nurse this year, so called EMSA. All students were ok, will make sure to have first aid and nursing next year.



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One upset vendor who was a late entry was asked to move their car during the event because it was in the way. Some vendors were frustrated because they arrived late and couldn't park on the grass; don't want folks to get use to parking on the grass because it will need to be kept nice when the park is renovated.

vi. Program was fantastic, Commissioner Matt Roberts did a fantastic job. Several Dream Keepers recipients came to collect their awards.

1. One adjustment for next year is several sponsors were packing up their tables during the awards, and it was obvious they were leaving. May consider moving up awards or ensure sponsors don't pack up in the middle of passing out the awards.
2. It's tricky to figure out timing because the planning committee wanted to have students see dancing.

vii. Always open to suggestions for improvement, it's getting to be a big festival.

viii. Haven't reconciled budget yet.

b. Chairwoman Cohenour opened the floor to discussion about Native American Day.

i. Vice Chair Carter noted that volunteer coverage and support was great. Responded quickly to yellowjacket issue.

1. Commissioner Matt Roberts seconded appreciation for volunteers. Spent all day Sunday setting up and all day executing the event on Monday. Recognized audio volunteers from ONE Gas.
2. Chairwoman Cohenour: There is a big group of planners who meet all year to put together the event. Able to broadcast live on YouTube, could broadcast for the first time since COVID.

ii. May need to block off the entry to the park next year so folks don't drive on the grass. The vendor parking lot was very close and convenient, had plenty of parking available. Need to enforce parking.

iii. Commissioner Powell: How did the shuttle operate?

1. Chairwoman Cohenour: Haven't heard, will have to find out. No news is good news.

iv. Commissioner Teehee: How did the commission distinguish themselves in the parade?

1. Chairwoman Cohenour: The commission didn't participate in the parade this year, most commissioners were busy running the event. Commissioner Matt Roberts brought us on stage, so got visibility and recognition that way.
2. Commissioner Dorcas Williams: No time to be in the parade, those who showed up were working and busy.



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- v. Chairwoman Cohenour: The planning committee engaged two student ambassadors, who had responsibility and visibility during the day. Can grow that program. The students helped with social media before and during the event. This opportunity provides service hours and leadership training to students.
- vi. Commissioner Waeltz: May want to lock down bags for Princesses, random individuals were grabbing them and walking off. Had to chase folks to get them back.
- vii. Commissioner Teehee and Commissioner Matt Roberts reflected on the beginning of the event. Chairwoman Cohenour reflected on Dream Keepers Park and how the park renovations are the legacy for this commission.
- viii. Chairwoman Cohenour wants to connect with Oklahomans for Equality to coordinate in the future.
- ix. Commissioner Joyce Roberts: Need to staff Elder tent all day.
- x. Estimated eight thousand attendees throughout the entire day.
- c. Chairwoman Cohenour has visited with different members of city council, ready to meet with members of Muscogee Creek nation to transfer Council Oak. Hope to accomplish during the current Mayoral administration.
- d. Vice Chair Carter went through City Council minutes, agendas, and committee agendas and there are no relevant items to report.
 - i. Day Chairwoman Cohenour reported to a City Council committee was the day the grant came through.
 - ii. Need to get parks committee back together to raise remaining \$1.8 million.
 - 1. Some tribes have pledged support but not money yet, and there are some other leads.
 - 2. Have plans to finish fundraising and will utilize social media.
 - iii. City has to do street study on closing Boulder Park Drive, so this will be the next push.

VI. Committee Reports

a. **Native American Day Committee** – covered in Chair Report

b. **Dream Keepers Committee**

- i. Commissioner Matt Roberts reminded the commission that next month is formal Dream Keepers Awards ceremony. Commissioners will sign up to bring items for reception.
 - 1. Emailed after last month's meeting with award winners, will send again.
 - 2. If you nominated an award winner, you can be the one to introduce them at the ceremony. Also invite them to the event and remind them the day before.



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3. Chairwoman Cohenour and Commissioner Matt Roberts are working on creating awards.

c. Education Committee

- i. Commissioner Matt Roberts shared list of schools that participated in the parade.
- ii. Chairwoman Cohenour stressed the importance of students celebrating their culture and providing visibility.
- iii. Commissioner Bolin recognized Commissioner Matt Roberts for his great communication.
- iv. Commissioner Perdue noted that every year they're able to incorporate students more and provide educational opportunity for them. Recognized Commissioner Haynes for starting that initiative.

d. Public Relations Committee

- i. Commissioner Laskey recognized City of Tulsa to help with press release. Channels 2, 3, and 6 showed up at Native American Day. Tulsa World opened was front page on 10/15.

e. Cultural Committee

- i. Commissioner Dorcas Williams shared gratitude for commission's growth and continuous support of fellow commissioners.
- ii. Shared appreciation from singers and Scott George.
- iii. Complimented TPS float.
- iv. Shared about a connection with a veteran's organization that will be donating some Oklahoma flags. The individual would like to make a presentation in November.
 1. Dream Keepers awards is during the commission's November meeting. Chairwoman Cohenour suggested doing a consent agenda for November so the commission can get through regular business quickly, then do flag presentation for a max of 10 minutes, then do Dream Keepers awards.
 2. Commissioner Dorcas Williams will reach out to individual and ask if the flag presentation can be in January instead of November.
- v. Made front page of Indian Country Today, the largest Indigenous Peoples newspaper in the country. Online only.
- vi. Commissioner Powell shared thank you from an individual who the commission supported.

f. Parks Committee – no report

g. Bylaws Committee

- i. Vice Chair Carter continued discussion from last month's meeting to recommend changes to ordinance. Changing the ordinance requires city council approval, so it will take some time. Working to have ordinance and bylaws consistent.



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1. Will likely reconvene in January to firm up recommendations to City Council.

vii. Old Business

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour announced we will take a commission photo after the end of this meeting.

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Consent agenda – need committee reports two weeks prior.
- b. Commissioner Lawrie's husband appreciated being honored with a Dream Keeper's award and is looking forward to ceremony next month.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Waeltz made a motion, Commissioner Laskey seconded.
 1. Aye: 14
 - ii. Motion passed.
- b. Meeting adjourned 6:57 pm.