

The Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2022 | 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

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

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Vice Chairwoman Adams Harris
 - i. Commissioner Adams Harris welcomes Commissioners Carly Griffith Hotvedt & Olivia StandingBear to the Commission.
 - 1. Commissioner Griffith Hotvedt introduces herself as a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and Associate Director of Indigenous and Agricultural Initiatives in the University of Arkansas Law Program.
 - 2. Commissioner StandingBear introduces herself as the Osage Nation Appointee, and instructor at Jenks Public Schools.

II. Land Acknowledgment

III. Approval of March Minutes

- a. Commissioner Adams Harris requests a motion to approve the minutes
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour makes a motion to approve the minutes
 - ii. Commissioner Powell seconds the motion
 - iii. All present in unanimous favor

IV. Chair's Report

- a. No report

V. Committee Reports

- a. **Native American Day Committee**
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reports that the commission has been regularly meeting and have an upcoming meeting tomorrow at 6 pm.
 - 1. She informs commissioners StandingBear & Griffith Hotvedt that all commission members are members of the NAD Committee, and offers to send the zoom link for future participation,

2. The NAD Committee has formally selected Joe Don Brave as the official artist for this year's NAD Day celebration.
 3. Tribal contacts have been updated -so the committee has access to a tribal mail merge.
 4. Next month the committee will begin seeking official sponsorships – and Commissioner Cohenour requests that the commission members tap their networks for potential sponsorship opportunities as well.
 5. Since COVID restrictions have been lessening, multiple communities have been announcing upcoming NAD celebrations.
 6. GTAAC's NAD celebration will be taking place at Dreamkeepers Park on 18th and Boston. Commissioner Cohenour reports that Spirit Bank Event Center has offered to donate lettering to the commission to advertise the event.
 7. The proposed parade route has been created, and it will wrap around Dreamkeepers park –
 8. The theme this year is “Our Journey Continues” – which the committee hopes will allow the promotion of stories from both young and old indigenous community members.
- ii. Commissioner Teehee asks if there's been a parade in this area ever before.
1. Commissioner Cohenour says no, and commissioner Teehee follows up by reminding the commissioners that the Creek Nation Council House is extremely close to the location and that it'd be nice to potentially use the space for a potential reception.
 - a. Commissioner Teehee also reminds the Commission that the stickball site and council monument will also be very close and that it'd be significantly symbolic to tie the river, oak tree, and park together for the experience.

b. Dream Keepers Committee

- i. Commissioner Adams Harris informs the commission that Commissioner Matt Roberts will be taking over as chair of the committee.
- ii. Commissioner Roberts urges all the commissioners to join the dream keepers committee, and for each commissioner to nominate at least one recipient each for enhanced involvement.
 1. Commissioner Cohenour states that considering the previous discussions for qualifications of nominations - she'd like the committee to update the commission on their process before anyone begins nominating folks.
 2. Commissioner Laskey asks if there are written guidelines for DK nominees.
 - a. Commissioner Adams Harris says yes and offers to send her some documents

c. Education Committee

- i. Commissioner Sharri Williams reports that the Indian Education “Students of Excellence” recipients have been formally selected. The recipients are high school Seniors who've meaningfully contributed to their school and the program.
- ii. Last year the commission acknowledged the students at a standing commission meeting in the city council chambers – and they're working to do it again.

1. Commissioner Williams reports that organizers normally host an in-person awards ceremony at TPS, but that won't be happening this year due to COVID concerns.
 - a. Commissioner Cohenour likes the idea of students attending the commission meeting to be honored– and the commissioners present informally agree.
 - b. Commissioner Roberts provides background on the history of the award to Commissioners' StandingBear and Hotvedt.
- iii. Commissioner Williams moves on to report that the Dreamkeepers Gathering this weekend is a trial and error event for October. Food trucks, vendors, and resources will be present at the event.
- iv. A native American author will be present, signing autographs and books.
- v. The schedule of events will include: Ms. Indian Oklahoma singing a song, performances by the Chickasaw nation dance troop, an expected presence from the Choctaw nation student group, and marbles games.
- vi. Commissioner Cohenour praises how helpful the parks department has been in this event., especially with a forecast for inclement weather.
- vii. Commissioner Adams Harris asks how the commission can honor students of excellence recipients at DK Park
 1. . Commissioner Teehee suggests a park float for NAD Day.

d. Public Relations Committee

- i. Commissioner Haynes reports that the committee did not meet, but that they have been active in sharing information to their listserve which currently reaches over 150 people.

e. Bylaws Committee

- i. No report

f. Cultural Committee

- i. No report

g. Parks Committee

- i. Commissioner Cohenour shares a physical copy of her report for the commission to review.
- ii. Commissioner Cohenour reminds the commission that there is a Native American Day Fund at Tulsa Community Foundation.

VI. Old Business

- a. None

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Teehee informs the commission that she shared an article regarding McGirt, that she found to be very inflammatory, but important to be aware of.
- b. Commissioner Arkeketa reports a plethora of activities taking place this weekend – including River Spirit hosting its first public art market.

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. None

IX. Adjournment

- a. Commissioner Teehee requests a motion for adjournment
- b. Commissioner Cohenour seconds
- c. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm