



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | April 15, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Linda Leaf Bolin, Cheryl Cohenour, Warren Harjo, Winnie Guess Perdue, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Mark Vancuren, Dorcas Williams, Shari Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Bible, Daniel Carter, Joe Deere, Stacy Laskey, Waynetta Lawrie, Patsy Powell, Warren Queton, Teresa Runnels, Kim Teehee, Erica Waeltz-Carter

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm. A quorum was not present.

II. Roll Call

III. Land Acknowledgment

IV. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. A quorum was not present in the meeting, so March meeting minutes were not approved.

V. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour reported that work for Dream Keepers Park has been very active, down to five architecture firms. Also working on presentations to Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.
- b. Started Native American Day preparations, next meeting is tomorrow at 6 pm at 916 W 23rd.
 - i. Theme: From Trails to Triumph.
 - ii. 100th anniversary of Native Americans becoming citizens.
 - iii. Commissioner Guess Purdue is the parade marshal.
- c. Today was the Tulsa Chamber's State of the Tribal Nations, which Amanda Swope attended.
- d. Chairwoman Cohenour turned the meeting over to Amanda Swope to give her monthly report.
 - i. Quarterly meeting with three tribal chiefs. Original focus was public safety, conversation has now expanded to other areas including economic



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

development, GTAIAC, City Council Tribal Relations Committee, health, and housing.

- ii. Meeting about Eucha Damn and Spavinaw Creek. Working to remediate creek bed.
- iii. City Council Approved creation of the 3 TIF districts, working with Muscogee Nation on one of them. Still in conversation, have some pieces already agreed upon. SW area of River Spirit Casino near Southwood Nursery.
- iv. City Council Tribal Relations Committee discussed funding impacts on nations.
 - 1. Next meeting is May 5 at 11am in 10 North.
 - 2. Focused on children, youth, and family.
 - 3. Deputy Mayor Reyes will be a guest speaker and nations will share what services they provide.
- v. Public Safety: Settlement conversation continues with Muscogee Nation. Will likely be settled by next month, barring any major events. Cherokee Nation is interested in having an MOU with the City so there is an understanding. Creating a task force to bring folks together and be part of this conversation.
- vi. Council Oak & Stickball Parks Land Transfer: Utility review is the last step before completing legal process. Discussed potential connection from Council Oak to Dream Keepers (ie: running path, history markers).
- e. Cheryl welcomed Commissioner Warren Harjo, representing the American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour covered most updates in her Chair's Report.
 - ii. Working with a new City staff person to help with City communications.
 - iii. Planning to grow student ambassadors, will have a local influencer joining the committee to help with communications and teach students.
 - iv. Expanding committee, working to solidify processes. Will assign chairs to different areas of responsibility in tomorrow's meeting.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Matt Roberts passed out one pagers with award descriptions and previous winners. Reminded the commission they recognize Dream Keepers on Native American Day and at an awards ceremony in November.
 - ii. Send nominations to Commissioner Matt Roberts. Looking for recipients who have made life-long impact in the Tulsa area in one or multiple categories.
- c. Education Committee



CITY EXPERIENCE
Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity

- i. Students of Excellence Awards will be given on May 1st at the Tulsa Public Schools Indian Education Senior Celebration at Booker T. Washington High School.
- ii. Commissioner Shari Williams shared that for several years, the Students of Excellence awards ceremony has been held at City Hall. Prior to that, commissioners would go to an awards ceremony at a Tulsa Public Schools venue. Timing and location of the ceremony has caused attendance to drop over the years, and the parent committee is in favor of doing the ceremony the way it was previously done.
 - 1. Chairwoman Cohenour agrees this change makes sense.
- iii. Commissioner Matt Roberts shared he will send the first Native American Day email to Indian education coordinators at schools prior to summer break so they have initial information and date.
- d. Public Relations Committee – no report
- e. Cultural Committee
 - i. Commissioner Dorcas Williams shared the committee didn't meet, but she communicates with the two other committee members (Commissioners Powel and Waeltz-Carter) via email. Commissioners may reach out to her if they have anything to share.
 - ii. Commissioner Dorcas Williams asked about a general commission email, Chairwoman noted a former commissioner used to manage it so a new person needs to be assigned.
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour covered most updates in her Chair's Report.
 - ii. \$1.7M left to fundraise. Confident that these funds will be raised.
 - iii. Will work to get local neighborhood associations and businesses informed and excited.
- g. Bylaws Committee – no report

VII. Old Business – no old business

VIII. New Business

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour shared that Susan Arkeketa resigned from the commission. Osage Nation is looking for someone to nominate.

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Lexi talked about parking procedures and TGOV mic protocols.
- b. Chairwoman Cohenour recognized former commissioner Vanessa Adams-Harris in the audience.
- c. Thursday, May 1: Tulsa American Indian Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Brian Warner, Deputy Chief of the Cherokee Nation, is the guest speaker.

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.