



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | May 20, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Bible, Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Cheryl Cohenour, Warren Harjo, Stacy Laskey, Waynetta Lawrie, Winnie Guess Perdue, Warren Queton, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Mark Vancuren, Shari Williams

Commissioners Absent: Joe Deere, Patsy Powell, Teresa Runnels, Kim Teehee, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

III. Land Acknowledgment

IV. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to approve March meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Lawrie made a motion, Commissioner Joyce Roberts seconded.
 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Leaf Bolin and Commissioner Shari Williams were not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, March meeting minutes approved.
 - b. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to approve April meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Joyce Roberts noted a typo in Section V. Chair / Vice Chair Report.
 - ii. Commissioner Lawrie made a motion with one correction, Commissioner Queton seconded.
 1. Aye: 11, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Leaf Bolin and Commissioner Shari Williams were not yet present in the meeting.
 - iii. Motion carried, April meeting minutes approved with one correction.

V. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour noted we have a busy season coming up with Dream Keepers Park and Native American Day. All commissioners' engagement is appreciated.



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- b. Cheryl recently gained access to the general GTAIAC email, will pass off to the Public Relations Committee.
- c. Vice Chair Carter shared a new resource to track federal policies that relate to tribal nations. Previously, there have been several different entities working to impact policy on a local, state, and federal level, but it can be difficult to follow all of them. Needed a unified voice to ensure federal policies consider tribal nations. Multiple organizations have created a single, unified organization: Coalition of Tribal Sovereignty.
 - i. Can sign up to get alerts and talking points on how potential federal policies, programs, funding cuts, etc. can impact tribes and Native American communities.
 - ii. Recently held a work group to discuss the impact of executive orders and grant freezes ahead of a consultation session that will be held in Oklahoma. Equipped attendees with tools to have their voices heard during the consultation session.

VI. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report

- a. Amanda Swope reported that the next quarterly meeting between the Mayor's Office and tribal chiefs will be in June.
- b. About 20 City employees did a tour with the Muscogee Nation, including Mayor's Office, City Council aids, and Department of Resilience and Equity staff.
- c. The Tribal Relations Committee May meeting focused on children, youth, and families. Deputy Mayor Reyes reported on the Office of Children, Youth, and Families and tribal representatives shared about programming their tribes offer.
 - i. Next meeting is on August 4 at 11 am.
- d. Progress is being made with the Council Oak and Stickball Park transfer.
- e. Extension of stay (30 days) was requested with the Muscogee National lawsuit. They are very close, in discussion on one or two points.
- f. City Council items that relate to tribes:
 - i. Native American graves and repatriation act with Gilcrease Museum, returning hundreds of items to tribal nations.
 - ii. Cheryl added that Yatika Fields, the featured artist for Native American Day, was recently appointed to the Arts Commission.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour reported the committee discussed creating a registration site so they don't have to use Eventbrite anymore, they are working with the City to get a separate webpage set up.
 - ii. The City is designing the save the date, should have it by tomorrow. PSO will print.
 - iii. Next meeting is June 11 in person or on Zoom.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Matt Roberts encouraged commissioners to send Dream Keepers Awards nominations before the commission takes a break in July.



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- ii. Commission will vote on awardees after their September commission meeting in order to give awards at Native American Day on Oct. 13.
- iii. Have received three quality nominations so far.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Shari Williams reflected on the great turnout at the Students of Excellence awards. All student awardees were present.
 - 1. Tulsa Public Schools thanks GTAIAC for partnering and supporting students.
 - 2. Commissioner Matt Roberts added that Amanda was the keynote speaker, Commissioner Guess Purdue shared remarks with the awardees, and Commissioner Bible performed at the drum.
 - ii. Commissioner Matt Roberts noted the save the date for Native American Day will be sent to schools as soon as the design is finalized.
- d. Public Relations Committee
 - i. Commissioner Laskey asked if she could get Kacie's email to get in touch with her. Chairwoman noted she is included on the Native American Day emails and will help make the connection.
 - ii. Commissioner Laskey introduced Max with Public Radio Tulsa.
- e. Cultural Committee – no report
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour shared the Parks Committee met last week and heard from six firms bidding on the park project. A firm was unanimously selected that is a local, Native-owned landscape firm. Can't name them yet because it has to be confirmed by Mayor Nichols before they are notified.
 - ii. Parks Department has been superb to work with, been open to needs, wants, and suggestions to create a Native American cultural destination for Tulsa.
- g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter shared the Bylaws Committee met immediately prior to this meeting, in a good place on a draft for a revised ordinance for the commission.
 - ii. Next step is to submit the draft to the City's Legal Department. Once we hear back from them, will take changes (if any) into account at the next Bylaws Committee meeting. Will be a good one to attend if you want to be part of the discussion.
 - iii. The Commission will then vote to make a recommendation to City Council to update the ordinance.
 - iv. After the ordinance is changed, bylaws changes will be made. Will be a good opportunity to document what the commission does and how we operate. Standing committees, process to recruit new commissioners, etc. Will need to consider what is not currently in there that should be added.



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- v. Will continue to hold meetings immediately prior to the commission meetings.

VIII. Old Business – no old business

IX. New Business – no new business

X. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Osage Ceremony of Dances (June 5 – 8).
- b. Commissioner Bible thanked Commissioner Shari Williams for the great ceremony at Tulsa Public Schools. It's a great time for our students with graduation dances. Commissioner Harjo echoed this sentiment.
- c. 20th Annual Day Ohn Day Run: May 24 at 7:30am at Mohawk Park. Almost 270 runners registered. Opportunities to volunteer.
- d. Deputy Chief Brian Werner spoke at American Indian Chamber of Commerce this past month. June 5 will be next meeting at River Spirit, speaker will be Heather Turner.
- e. August 20 – 22 at River Spirit: Annual TERO Convention.
- f. Gathering with American Indian Chamber of Commerce (August 25 – 28).
- g. Cherokee Nation has begun building North Tulsa Cherokee Organization community center.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Vice Chair Carter made a motion, Commissioner Lawrie seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 13
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.