



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | October 21, 2025 | 5:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Bible, Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Cheryl Cohenour, Stacy Laskey, Pat Powell, Warren Queton, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Teresa Runnels, Kim Teehee, Mark Vancuren, Dorcas Williams, Shari Williams

Commissioners Absent: Joe Deere, Warren Harjo, Waynetta Lawrie, Winnie Guess Perdue, Erica Waeltz-Carter

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
- b. Roll Call
- c. Land Acknowledgment

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Commissioner Leaf Bolin arrived at 5:34 pm.
- b. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to approve September meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Vancuren made a motion, Commissioner Laskey seconded.
 1. Aye: 13, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Teehee was not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, September meeting minutes approved.

III. Guest Speaker: Emilee Taylor, Executive Director of Strategy and Data at Tulsa Public Schools – to be rescheduled

IV. Guest Speaker: Pete Otis, Director of Development at Tulsa Performing Arts Center

- a. Tulsa is one of approximately 35 cities to partner with the Kennedy Center through the Any Given Child program, allowing Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) students to take field trips to watch performances at Tulsa Performing Arts Center.
- b. This year's show: Channeling Our Ancestors. This show is locally created & produced and will be shown to Kindergarteners and 7th graders this year.
 - i. The production is about learning & unlearning. Breaking down stereotypes and educating children about what it's like to be Indigenous in Oklahoma today.
 - ii. Bringing more Indigenous live theater and performances to Tulsa.
 - iii. Invited commissioners to be guests at any of the performances. Taking place November 4 – 7 at 10am and noon.



- c. Free master class for the public on November 21.
 - i. All Indigenous class coming from around the country.
 - ii. Currently 34 people signed up.
- d. Amanda Swope: Can you talk about data and responses you've received from the show?
 - i. Pete: There is robust pre- and post-show learning that takes place. Feedback from students shows they've never seen Indigenous representation like this before and it's easy for students to absorb the material.

V. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour thanked commissioners for coming out and helping at Native American Day. The event was larger this year than previous years, despite the rain.
 - i. Livestreamed the event and had 7,000+ views.
 - ii. Public Relations Committee did a great job getting the word out.

VI. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report

- a. Amanda Swope shared that City Council approved the Southern Villa TIF District which is in partnership with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- b. Council also approved the transfer of Council Oak and Stickball Parks to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Mayor will be signing final deed tomorrow (10/21). The National will recognize the national holiday for tree on November 1 from 10 – 2.
 - i. Vice Chair Carter emphasized how important it is for the City to acknowledge this land's importance to the Nation. This conveyance is unprecedented, not just symbolic.
 - ii. Chairwoman Cohenour thanked Vice Chair Carter for the tremendous work he did to help get the legal teams together to talk.
- c. Shared what she's been working on
 - i. Met with TRC about including Nations in visits when folks come to Tulsa from other cities.
 - ii. Working to help Tribes get involved in Route 66 Centennial celebrations, if they would like to.
 - iii. Mayor's Office Community Conversations
 - iv. Tour of new Family Safety Center with Cherokee Nation
 - 1. Chairwoman Cohenour underscored the impact of Family Safety Center
 - v. Presented at state tribal interim study discussing how the state could be better about working with tribes
 - vi. United Indian Nations & Intertribal Council meetings
 - vii. Continuing to meet with Muscogee Nation settlement group, next meeting Nov 13. Going well, focused on communication needs
- d. Commissioner Teehee arrived at 5:49 pm.
- e. Commissioner Teehee asked if GTAIAC has submitted a letter acknowledging the transfer of Council Oak and Stickball Parks. Vice Chair Carter noted that last year the commission wrote a letter to Mayor Bynum supporting the land transfer, but haven't done anything to acknowledge that the transfer is complete. Commissioner Teehee offered an idea to present a certificate from the commission to the City.



- i. Commissioner Teehee motioned to have GTAIAC present a certificate to City of Tulsa acknowledging the transfer of land to Muscogee Creek Nation, Vice Chair Carter seconded.

1. Aye: 13

2. Motion carried, GTAIAC will present City of Tulsa with a certificate.

VII. Nomination Committee: Presentation of 2026–2027 Officer Slate

- a. Commissioner Matt Roberts shared the Nomination Committee has not met and there is not a slate to present. No one has expressed interest in serving as chair or vice chair. The commission will need to have a quick meeting prior to the Dream Keepers Awards Ceremony next month.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour reported that she is finalizing all invoices and payments. Would like to take the bills from City of Tulsa before City Council to have them forgiven, which has not been done before.
 - ii. Will create a detailed checklist and divide up the work amongst the committee next year.
 - iii. Next year will be the 10th year of Native American Day in Tulsa.
 - iv. Discussed possibly giving a gift of gratitude to committee volunteers. Vice Chair Carter suggested a certificate that would be given to volunteers before Dream Keepers.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Matt Roberts: 7 of 11 recipients were at Native American Day. Received great feedback from awardees and their families.
 - ii. The ceremony is on November 18.
 - iii. Commissioner Teehee shared that since Chief Hoskin is receiving an award, the Cherokee Nation will sponsor the reception and provide everything needed. Commissioners expressed gratitude.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Matt Roberts sent a thank you email and post cards to all the Indian Education departments, schools, and music departments that participated in Native American Day. Continue to get more participation, especially from post-secondary institutions.
 - ii. Commissioner Shari Williams shared an opportunity for commissioners to volunteer as judges for classroom door decorating contest for Native American Heritage Month.
 - iii. Chairwoman Cohenour reflected on how proud she is of the student ambassadors as culture keepers. Many attendees remarked how excited they were to see so many students.
- d. Public Relations Committee
 - i. Commissioner Laskey reflected on the great media exposure that Native American Day received.
- e. Cultural Committee



- i. Commissioner Dorcas Williams remarked how much people appreciated the Native American Day livestream, and she heard from folks all over Oklahoma who tuned in.
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour shared that the committee is kicking off the design concept in November. Head designer was at Native American Day.
 - ii. Focused on meeting fundraising goal by engaging with community partners and foundations.
- g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter: Have a workable draft to the proposed revised ordinance, included in meeting packet.
 - ii. Lexi will send a summary of the changes.
 - iii. Would like to vote on the ordinance changes in commission in January 2026, giving commissioners three months to review the documents and ask questions individually. After GTAIAC votes to support the changes, they go to the Mayor and City Council. GTAIAC can't change the ordinance but can recommend changes. After the ordinance is updated, then the committee will tackle streamlining the bylaws. The ordinance will be easier to read, and bylaws will provide more details on how commission carries out those duties.
 - iv. Vice Chair Carter noted some of the primary proposed ordinance changes, and a couple questions from commissioners were raised. Brief discussion ensued.

IX. Old Business – no old business

X. New Business – no new business

XI. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Commissioner Queton encouraged commissioners to watch the next episode of The Lowdown and they may see someone familiar.
- b. Native American Major Leaguers
- c. Veterans Fair Housing Summit on November 6 from 1 – 4:30 at Centennial Center at Veteran's Park. Hosted by the Human Rights Commission's Fair Housing Committee.
- d. Tulsa Expungement Expo on November 1 from 10 – 2 at the 36th Street Event Center.

XII. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Bible made a motion, Commissioner Queton seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 13
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.