



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

March 17, 2026 | 5:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Notes

Commissioners Present: Linda Leaf Bolin, Cheryl Cohenour, Winnie Guess Perdue, Pat Powell, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Mark Vancuren, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams

Commissioners Absent: David Bible, Daniel Carter, Joe Deere, Warren Harjo, Stacy Laskey, Waynetta Lawrie, Warren Queton, Teresa Runnels, Kim Teehee, Shari Williams

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Matt Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. A quorum was not present.
- b. Roll Call
- c. Land Acknowledgment

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. As a quorum was not present, the February meeting minutes were not approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Roberts and Vice Chair Carter attended the Title V Commissions Chair and Vice Chair meeting with Mayor Nichols and his staff. Chairman Roberts appreciated the mayor's intentionality, appreciation, and asking for input. He talked about the importance of the commissions and provided updates on his office's priorities such as Safe Move Tulsa and co-governance with tribal nations. Each commission talked about their goals going into 2026.
- b. In the last two meetings, GTAAC discussed the Midland Valley Trail renaming, with members of the public sharing their opinions. The Muscogee Nation expressed their appreciation for bringing this topic to their attention and the City Council vote for the renaming was postponed allowing time to consult with the nation.

IV. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report

- a. Amanda Swope added that the Muscogee Nation is taking up trail issue at their upcoming community meeting to get input. There could be an opportunity for GTAAC to vote in the future based on what the nation's position evolves into.
- b. Attended Events:
 - i. North Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization (NTCCO) Center Opening
 - ii. Tribal Innovation Summit
 - iii. Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Park Service, National Park Conversation Association – Investing money into local parks, exploring if they



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could be a funder for Dream Keepers Park or help develop a cultural center.

They are learning how to engage with tribal nations and Tulsa is paving the way.

iv. Common Cause Developer Expo – Educating about Improve Our Tulsa dollars for housing. At the expo, smaller tribal and other minority businesses learned about the projects and connected with larger developers.

v. South Tulsa Damn Project meeting with City of Jenks and Muscogee Nation

vi. Circle of Honor Event at Tulsa City County Library

vii. Justice on the Reservation – Amanda and Mayor Nichols spoke on panel.

c. United Indian Nations of Oklahoma – Nominated Chief Hoskin to represent Eastern Oklahoma tribes on a DOJ committee.

d. The Culture Advisory Committee for Dream Keepers Park had first meeting last week.

V. Committee Reports

a. Chairman Roberts sent around the committee signup sheet for commissioners who weren't in attendance last month to select their committee(s).

b. Native American Day Committee

i. Commissioner Cohenour reported that the committee had its first meeting in

February, during which they selected a theme and discussed the featured artist.

ii. Future meetings will be on Thursdays.

iii. 2026 Theme: Sovereign Roots / Shared Future

iv. This will be the 10th Anniversary of Native American Day (NAD).

v. The committee discussed different options for afternoon programming.

vi. Put out a call for artists, which was shared on the City's website, NAD social

media, and the Resilient Tulsa Facebook. The deadline to submit interest is 3/31.

vii. Will have NAD at Dream Keepers, as construction will not start until after.

viii. Next meeting: April 2

ix. Chairman Roberts noted that Mayor Nichols shared in their meeting that he sees NAD as a significant celebration for Tulsa.

c. Dream Keepers Committee – no update

d. Education Committee

i. Commissioner Shari Williams gave Commissioner Cohenour materials to share in her absence.

ii. Commissioner Cohenour reminded commissioners about the Tulsa Public Schools bond issue that is being voted on April 7. There are four propositions, the bond does not lead to a tax rate increase, and funds will invest in student opportunities.

e. Public Relations Committee

i. Chairman Roberts reminded commissioners to share opportunities with Commissioner Laskey at gtaiacinfo@gmail.com.

f. Cultural Committee

i. Commissioner Dorcas Williams shared that Brenda Pipestem received a Lifetime Achievement award. She accepted in honor of her mother, grandmother, and all Cherokee matriarchs.

ii. Gathering Place's cherry blossoms are in full bloom and the park has several events taking place.



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iii. Burning Cedar has weekly Yuchi language classes.

iv. Commissioner Cohenour reminded commissioners that NTCCO will have weekly Cherokee classes starting this spring.

g. Parks Committee

i. Commissioner Cohenour reported that the Dream Keepers Park's Cultural Committee meeting was well attended. Good to get a feel for what different tribes think is important to incorporate to inform direction of designers. Language and common symbols were priorities. Commissioners Dorcas Williams, Laskey, and Cohenour attended.

ii. Many Tulsans will benefit from a cultural destination like Dream Keepers Park.

iii. Tribal representation goes beyond three tribes Tulsa shares land with.

iv. During the National Park Conservation Association visit, the committee was encouraged to pursue adding Council Oak and Stickball Parks to the national registry and pursuing having the entire area be designated as a National Park.

v. Grant opportunity through Muscogee Nation for cultural center.

h. Bylaws Committee

i. Proposed ordinance revisions are going through the Mayoral and City Council approval process. Hope to have an update next month.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business – no new business

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

a. Owasso Indian Education had a spring festival with good turnout.

b. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

IX. Adjournment

a. Chairman Roberts adjourned at 6:14 pm.