



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | April 21, 2026 | 5:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Bible, Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Chery Cohenour, Warren Harjo, Stacy Laskey, Winnie Guess Perdue, Pat Powell, Warren Queton, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Teresa Runnels, Mark Vancuren, Shari Williams

Commissioners Absent: Joe Deere, Waynetta Lawrie, Kim Teehee, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Matt Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
- b. Roll Call
- c. Land Acknowledgment

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to approve February meeting minutes.
 - i. Vice Chair Carter made a motion, Commissioner Cohenour seconded.
 1. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.
- b. As the March GTAIAC meeting did not have a quorum present, there are not official minutes for that meeting.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Roberts remarked that Native American Day is a highlight of GTAIAC.
- b. GTAAAC reached out to chairs of other commissions to learn about Education initiatives, meeting May 14 to discuss. This is an opportunity to learn ideas from other commissions.
- c. Chairman Roberts remarked that commissioners do so much more than serve on GTAIAC, they serve and support the broader Native community.
- d. Vice Chair Carter reported that City Council passed the amended ordinance governing GTAIAC, on Mayor's signing agenda tomorrow. Goes into effect immediately upon signature. Met with City Council twice and had great conversation. It's good to take the opportunity to develop relationships with City Council and the City.

IV. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report

- a. Amanda Swope talked about her recent meetings and connections:
 - i. Aspen Institute and Coretz Family Foundation are working on an upcoming summit in October, and Amanda has been part of conversations to make sure tribes are well represented.



RESILIENCE AND EQUITY

- ii. Global Oklahoma Showcase involved several nations
- iii. Tulsa Renewable Business Alliance roundtable
- iv. Intertribal in Thackerville – The next one is at River Spirit Casino hosted by Muscogee Nation
- v. Native American Cultural Committee for Indian Healthcare Resource Center, Commissioner Bible spoke
- vi. Toured a possible Native American Cultural Center location – this conversation is connecting back to Dream Keepers Park
- b. Gilcrease Museum repatriation efforts: The museum is looking to change their policy to bring on tribal designees on committee.
- c. Midland Valley Trail renaming: Waiting for Muscogee Nation to put on their agenda for consideration.
- d. The South Tulsa Dam project sees ongoing conversation and consideration of different options. They are working to identify additional funding and there is an upcoming stakeholder meeting.
- e. Mayor Nichols is interested in designating a City of Tulsa holiday for the Native American community that will honor all nations. Open to GTAIAC's feedback.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour: The NAD committee selected this year's theme and featured artist.
 - 1. Theme: Sovereign Roots / Shared Future
 - 2. Artist: Jessica Harjo
 - ii. New committee members were added by engaging more corporate employee resource groups.
 - iii. The City's Parks Department will not begin renovation on Dream Keepers Park until after NAD.
 - iv. Focusing on cultural exhibitions and student ambassadors.
 - v. Next meeting: April 30
 - 1. Assigning chairs of different work areas
 - 2. Encouraging student ambassadors to join
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Chairman Roberts asked commissioners to notify him if they are interested in chairing the Dream Keepers Committee.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Williams reported that Students of Excellence, recognition of TPS high school seniors, is on May 7 at 6pm in the Booker T Washington Auditorium.
 - ii. Commissioner Leaf Bolin and Chairman Roberts shared about Jenks and Owasso's Indian Education end of year programming.
- d. Public Relations Committee
 - i. Commissioner Laskey encouraged commissioners to share flyers so she can share with the newsletter. Email is gtaiacinfo@gmail.com
- e. Cultural Committee – no report



- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reported the park designers have been meeting with different entities (neighborhood associations, tribes, etc.) to learn how stakeholders want to use the park. These meetings have seen a lot of engagement.
 - ii. Fundraising with foundations and corporations.
 - iii. The committee anticipates having a conceptual design by June 1.
 - iv. Cultural Sub-Committee meeting on May 1.
 - v. National Parks Service encouraged committee to seek a national historic designation for Dream Keepers Park, could be a steppingstone to having a National Park designation for the entire area encompassing Council Oak and Stickball Parks.
- g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter shared more details about the ordinance passing City Council. It was passed unanimously with one amendment and will be signed into law by Mayor Nichols tomorrow.
 - ii. Vice Chair Carter reminded commissioners of main changes made in this ordinance update.
 - iii. The amendment made by City Council is to the eligibility requirements for GTAIAC members to include citizens of federally recognized tribes, demonstrated by a tribal enrollment card, or of American Indian ancestry with a federally recognized tribe, demonstrated by a CDIB card. This allows for Freedmen who are tribal citizens but not necessarily of American Indian ancestry to be eligible to serve on GTAIAC.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Cohenour asked about paying for event advertising in Native magazines. The Public Relations Committee to evaluate the return on investment. GTAIAC struggles to get NAD on city-wide event calendars, and it would be nice to get a spot.

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Annual Muscogee (Creek) Nation Native Vendor Fair at River Spirit Casino: Sept. 3
- b. Commissioner Bible encouraged commissioners to attend future Indian Health Care Resource Center culture meetings.
- c. TU Native Law Students event Saturday from 2 – 9, Commissioner Queton emceeding
- d. American Indian Chamber of Commerce meets monthly
- e. Tulsa Regional Chamber State of the Tribal Nations: May 14

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour made a motion, Commissioner Laskey seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:29 pm.