



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | May 19, 2026 | 5:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Bible, Daniel Carter, Cheryl Cohenour, Joe Deere, Stacy Laskey, Winnie Guess Perdue, Pat Powell, Warren Queton, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Teresa Runnels, Amanda Swope, Mark Vancuren, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Shari Williams

Alternates Present: Brandi Payton

Commissioners Absent: Linda Leaf Bolin, Warren Harjo, Kim Teehee, 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 April meeting minutes with typos corrected.
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour made a motion, Commissioner Waeltz-Carter seconded.
 1. Aye: 15, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, April meeting minutes approved with typos corrected.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. The Students of Excellence Awards Ceremony was this month. Chairman Matt Roberts passed out a document with the names, schools, and accomplishments of the twelve awardees.
- b. Chairman Roberts mentioned there was a second quarter meeting with Title V Commissions Chairs and Vice Chairs. GTAIAC is the longest running Title V Commission and can serve as a model. The cross-commission retreat is this summer.
- c. Vice Chair Carter reflected on the importance of recognizing students and appreciates Chairman Roberts and Commissioner Shari Williams for their work.
- d. Vice Chair Carter talked about the State of the Tribal Nations event hosted by the Tulsa Regional Chamber. Several commissioners were in attendance. It was an opportunity to talk to business and tribal leaders about tribes' work and economic impact in the Great Tulsa area. Important to reach out to non-Native entities and individuals. Commissioner Swope was a panel moderator.

IV. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report



RESILIENCE AND EQUITY

- a. Commissioner Swope reported that the City of Tulsa received the latest draft for the settlement agreement with Muscogee Nation. The next step after the draft is finalized is for Chief Hill and Mayor Nichols to meet and discuss an action plan.
- b. The Dream Keepers Park Advisory Committee met.
- c. Recent Events and Meetings Attended:
 - i. Tulsa Indian Club spring festival
 - ii. Community Conversations—next one is May 26th at TU
 - iii. Muscogee Nation Realty—trust application for property in City of Tulsa
 - iv. NYU interested in connecting with tribes about wildfire mitigation
- d. Met with Anna America in parks to discuss potential locations for the cultural center. Hope to submit a grant by July.
- e. Tulsa Renewable Business Alliance Summit: Commissioner Swope is helping with planning and will reach out to tribes about resources for jobs in renewable energy.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reported the committee is meeting monthly, next one on Thursday 5/28.
 - ii. Working with the City on graphics.
 - iii. Mayor Nichols agreed to be the parade marshal.
 - iv. The featured artist, Jessica Harjo, is working on the t-shirt design.
 - v. Chairman Roberts sent kick off email to schools and received responses.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Queton volunteered to chair the Dream Keepers Committee.
 - ii. Two nominees have been submitted so far.
 - iii. Chairman Roberts challenged all commissioners to submit one nominee before the end of June.
 - iv. Will still recognize award recipients on stage at Native American Day.
 - v. Commissioner Queton will follow up with commissioners via email.
 - vi. Commissioner Waeltz-Carter suggested providing a template for nominations to make it easier for commissioners to share.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Shari Williams: Tulsa Public Schools appreciates the partnership with GTAIAC in recognizing students.
- d. Public Relations Committee – no report
- e. Cultural Committee
 - i. Commissioner Powell: Muscogee Nation Annual Honor Walk on June 24 at 9am
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reported the committee has been busy in the design phase. Presented renderings to cultural subcommittee on May 1. Meeting every two weeks.
 - ii. The design firm visited Council Oak Elementary to gather student input.
 - iii. Fundraising is ongoing.
- g. Bylaws Committee



RESILIENCE AND EQUITY

- i. Vice Chair Carter reported the committee is working to find a new meeting time and will begin work on determining what needs to be included in GTAIAC's bylaws.

VI. Old Business

- a. Commissioner Queton asked about the Midland Valley Trail renaming. Commissioner Swope shared that Muscogee Nation is compiling options of potential names. The City is awaiting more information.

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Deere provided an NCAI update.

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Intertribal (July 7 – 10)
- b. North Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization Community Center Open House (June 6 from 12 – 4)
- c. Community Genealogy Workshops (June 18 – 20)
- d. Tulsa Indian Club Run at Mohawk Park over Memorial Day weekend was rescheduled to Father's Day, June 21 at 7:30 am.
- e. Dance of Two Moons with Indian Health Care Resource Center
- f. Osage Nation Health Care Center

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour made a motion, Commissioner Queton seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 15, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.