



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | March 18, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Joe Deere, Stacy Laskey, Waynetta Lawrie, Winnie Guess Perdue, Patsy Powell, Warren Queton, Joyce Roberts, Teresa Runnels, Mark Vancuren, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams

Commissioners Absent: Susan Arkeketa, David Bible, Cheryl Cohenour, Matt Roberts, Kim Teehee, Shari Williams

I. Call to Order and Introductions

- a. Vice Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

III. Land Acknowledgment

IV. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Vice Chair Carter entertained a motion to approve February meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Deere made a motion, Commissioner Queton seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 13, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, February meeting minutes approved.

V. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Vice Chair Carter mentioned the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's litigation against the City of Tulsa. Since McGirt, City has largely ignored the jurisdiction of tribal nations when it comes to smaller violations such as traffic violations. Muscogee (Creek) Nation filed lawsuit to adjoin City from arresting tribal citizens. Mayor Nichols stayed the case to enter negotiations; then, Governor Stitt filed a motion to take over the lawsuit. The perception is that since the Mayor is now trying to resolve the issue and come to a cooperative agreement, the Governor wants to intervene. Continued litigation causes uncertainty, coming to an agreement will benefit the community.
- b. Vice Chair Carter shared that there wasn't much related to tribal relations in recent City Council agendas and minutes. There were three artifacts that tribes (not local) requested repatriation, which appears to have been approved.



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- i. Now that Amanda's position is part of the Mayor's Office, would like to have her help elevate items relevant to tribal nations.
- c. Vice Chair Carter asked Amanda Swope to give an update on the City Council's Tribal Relations Committee meeting from February. Amanda reported that the committee has struggled to get quorum, before February the last time they met was March 2024. Will move the committee to a work group, making it less of a requirement for council members. Will meet quarterly moving forward. First work area will be budgeting.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter shared a report emailed from Commissioner Matt Roberts, who was unable to attend.
 - ii. Finalized this year's theme, almost selected a parade marshal and artist.
 - 1. Commissioner Queton talked to the artist, they will be checking their calendar before confirming.
 - iii. Reminder that all commissioners serve on the Native American Day Committee.
 - iv. Native American Day is on October 13 this year.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Deere shared the committee has received three nominations so far.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Deere reported that TPS Indian Education Senior Celebration is on May 1, 2025 at 6 pm at Booker T. Washington High School.
 - ii. Vice Chair Carter shared about the TPS Indian Education Social Dance (April 12 from 2 – 10 pm at Will Rogers High School Gym) and the American Indian Resource Center's spring break programming taking place this week. Commissioner Runnels shared more details about the events.
 - 1. Stickball making next week at Zarrow Library. Then, there will be a stickball game at Zarrow Library on Saturday, March 29.
 - iii. Commissioner Deere: Cherokee Nation will meet with school Superintendents on March 25 (closed meeting).
 - iv. Vice Chair Carter noted how positive it is to hear about tribes supporting public education, especially in the face of federal funding cuts. Federal government has treaty obligations to tribal citizens. If you hear of local schools cutting Indian education programs, be positioned to educate on treaty obligations.
 - v. Commissioner Queton: Tulsa Public Schools Indian Education day on April 3 from 8 – 2:30 at Remington Elementary School.



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- d. Public Relations Committee
 - i. Commissioner Laskey introduced Elizabeth Caldwell, a Public Radio Tulsa reporter. Vice Chair Carter shared gratitude that Public Radio Tulsa continues to show up and report on Native American issues despite being short staffed.
 - ii. The committee will meet with Amanda to discuss City supports.
- e. Cultural Committee
 - i. No committee report.
 - ii. Commissioner Dorcas Williams shared an incident related to Bureau of Indian Affairs. There is a need for folks to stay educated and updated on the services and appointments offered at that office, as she experienced an appointment being canceled due to federal changes.
 - iii. Vice Chair Carter noted that the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) has recently shared materials to educate on the difference between treaty obligations with tribal nations and DEI programs.
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Commissioner Laskey shared that Osage Casinos will vote on park request in March.
- g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter shared that the Bylaws Committee had a productive meeting during which they reviewed a discussion draft of proposed changes to the City Ordinance that establishes GTAIAC. Will need to have City of Tulsa's legal review, welcome everyone's participation and input.

VII. Old Business

- a. Appointment of a commissioner to Human Rights Commission: Vice Chair had talked to some commissioners to gauge interest.
 - i. Vice Chair Carter nominated Commissioner Joyce Roberts to represent GTAIAC on the Human Rights Commission.
 - 1. Commissioner Waeltz-Carter seconded.
 - 2. Vice Chair Carter opened the floor for nominations.
 - 3. Commissioner Vote
 - a. Aye: 13, Nay: 0
 - 4. Commissioner Joyce Roberts was selected to represent GTAIAC on HRC.

VIII. New Business

- a. Amanda shared that she spoke to Cheryl about her giving a brief report on her work each month. Has been working on lawsuits, working on consent decree with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, discussions have gone well and will be working on specific language. In discussion with tribes on how to collaboratively address housing in the city.
 - i. Vice Chair Carter raised that federal lands may be opened to tribal housing.



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- ii. Osage Nation said they don't have properties, but if the City identifies property, they would be supportive of that initiative.
- iii. The Mayor's Office wants tribal representation on the newly-established Sustainability Task Force. Amanda has reached out to tribes and open to suggestions from commissioners as well.
- b. Commissioner Deere: NCAI has learned that the federal government is restricting IHS and BIA payments. Encourages commissioners to look into their tribes programs to see what the current status of programs are.
 - i. NCAI event in June in Pequot lands.
 - ii. Indian Gaming Association consultations coming up, expecting low attendance.

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting is April 9 – 11 at WinStar World Casino.
- b. University of Tulsa School of Law symposium on March 28 at 9am, followed by a powwow.

X. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Carter entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Laskey made a motion, Commissioner Lawrie seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 13
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.