



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | June 17, 2025 | 6:00 – 7:00 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | 10 North Meeting Room

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Bible, Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Cheryl Cohenour, Joe Deere, Stacy Laskey, Patsy Powell, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Teresa Runnels, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams, Shari Williams

Commissioners Absent: Warren Harjo, Waynetta Lawrie, Winnie Guess Perdue, Warren Queton, Kim Teehee, Mark Vancuren

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

II. Roll Call

III. Land Acknowledgment

IV. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to approve May meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Joyce Roberts made a motion, Commissioner Deere seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 12, Nay: 0
 - a. Commissioner Waeltz-Carter was not yet present in the meeting.
 - ii. Motion carried, May meeting minutes approved.

V. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour reflected that this is a time that many tribes have dances and powwows. Hope the commission can receive notification of those to attend and share with community.
 - i. Noted the City's Communications department can help Commissioner Laskey with getting the commission's email up and running.
- b. Nomination process for Humanitarian of the Year Award, selected by the Human Rights Commission.
 - i. Lexi shared about the award.
 - ii. Nominations are due June 30.
- c. Chairwoman Cohenour turned the floor to Commissioner Deere for an NCAI update.
 - i. Recently convened at Pequot Nation.



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- ii. 82nd Annual Convention Nov 16 – 21 at Seattle Convention Center.
- iii. Eastern Region Caucus was on Tuesday, no resolutions but some items to watch.
- iv. Reviewed membership and 15 tribes were not renewed. Chairwoman Cohenour asked about the 15 tribes that did not qualify for membership. Commissioner Deere provided further details.
- d. Vice Chair Carter shared there was a sovereignty symposium in Oklahoma City last Thursday and Friday. Focused on tribal law, draws most tribal leadership in the state.

VI. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report

- a. Amanda Swope also attended sovereignty symposium and was a panelist.
- b. No City Council updates.
- c. Pending litigation with Muscogee Nation: Both parties requested another extension for the next week, have agreeable language. Very close to settlement.
- d. Scheduling next inter-tribal meeting with Mayor Nichols.
- e. Held several meetings with various organizations, including Tulsa Area United Way, Tulsa Remote, Leadership Tulsa, and Chronologically Gifted.
- f. Muscogee Nation meetings with south Tulsa damn project.
- g. Working with the City's Communications department to develop responses to Freedmen and allotment for Native community after the Road to Repair announcement. Two very difficult topics in the community.
 - i. Open to the Commission providing recommendations or opinions on these issues.
- h. Mayor's Office Updates:
 - i. Urban Leaders Fellows working with different advisors on various projects.
 - ii. Community Conversations have concluded.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour shared the committee is meeting twice a month now, usually a bit further along in the planning process.
 - ii. Need to fence in the park to get folks used to not parking on the grass but otherwise will have a similar layout to last year.
 - iii. Using Google Forms for rsvp's instead of Eventbrite. Save the date cards have been sent out. City Communications will set up a separate page on the City's website.
 - iv. Next meeting: June 25 at 6 pm
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Matt Roberts reminded everyone to send nominations, the commission will vote in September.
 - ii. Seven nominations received so far. Have not received nominations for Education, Veteran, Language Preservation, or Spirituality awards.
 - iii. Chairwoman Cohenour reminded everyone that the awardee doesn't need to live in the Greater Tulsa area, but their impact needs to be in Tulsa.
- c. Education Committee



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- i. Indian Health Care Resource Center is hosting Resilience Through Tradition Culture Day Youth Summit the Saturday before Native American Day, October 11. Looking for area Indian Education departments to set up information tables.
 - ii. Some school districts have Native American Day off and others don't. This can affect attendance—for some students it's more difficult to come when school is in session and for others it's more difficult when school is off.
 - iii. Indian Education programs at different districts offer summer programming for students.
 - d. Public Relations Committee – no report
 - e. Cultural Committee
 - i. Commissioner Powell: June 20 is Muscogee Nation honor walk at Cultural Department
 - ii. Commissioner Dorcas Williams shared that she and Commissioner Guess Perdue have been involved with the Gathering Place. They are organizing Global Gatherings throughout the summer to showcase different cultures. July 12 is the Native American event, will have storytelling and dancing.
 - iii. Chairwoman Cohenour reminded Commissioner Powell and Commissioner Dorcas Williams to share those types of opportunities with Commissioner Laskey so she can send out through the commission email.
 - f. Parks Committee
 - i. Chairwoman Cohenour shared that the committee selected TSW, a woman and Native-owned firm, for the Dream Keepers Park work.
 - ii. Kick off design meeting with Parks Department soon. Excited to move forward. Have to spend grant funds within a certain time period.
 - iii. Would like to have the gardens done before the Route 66 Centennial celebration. Cherokee garden is secured, waiting to confirm Muscogee Creek garden, and were denied by Osage Nation (for now).
 - iv. Commissioner Laskey asked when RFPs will come for the large monument. Chairwoman Cohenour shared that will be later on, need to get further with the design of the park.
 - g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter reported that the draft ordinance revisions were submitted to City's Legal Department, awaiting comments or approval. Will update Commission after hearing from them for the Commission to review and vote.
 - ii. Began discussing bylaws updates, as once ordinance is amended bylaws will be tackled. Could make changes such as committees, order of meetings, and Dream Keepers Awards process. Open to ideas and participation.
 - iii. Next meeting will be prior to the August commission meeting.
- VIII. Old Business – no old business**
- IX. New Business – no new business**
- X. Announcements / Public Comments**



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- a. Commissioner Deere: Inter-Tribal coming up at River Spirit Casino. Nine tribes Inter-Tribal tomorrow in Miami.
- b. Commissioner Runnels: Tomorrow, Miss Indian Tulsa will be passing crown to her successor at 6:30 pm at Glenpool Indian Center.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Chairwoman Cohenour entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Deere made a motion, Commissioner Dorcas Williams seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 13
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.