



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | June 16, 2026 | 5:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: David Bible, Linda Leaf Bolin, Daniel Carter, Cheryl Cohenour, Stacy Laskey, Winnie Guess Perdue, Pat Powell, Joyce Roberts, Matt Roberts, Teresa Runnels, Erica Waeltz-Carter, Dorcas Williams, Shari Williams

Alternate Present: Brandi Payton

Commissioners Absent: Joe Deere, Warren Harjo, Warren Queton, Amanda Swope, Kim Teehee, Mark Vancuren

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 May meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour motioned, Commissioner Laskey seconded.
 1. Aye: 13, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, May meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Roberts reminded commissioners this is the last meeting for the first half of the year, as GTAIAC takes July off.
- b. July 21: Title V Commissions event with TYPROS, opportunity for young leaders to learn about GTAIAC. Chairman Roberts submitted info to Lexi for City Communications to create a flyer.
- c. Vice Chair Carter shared that he attended Sovereignty Symposium in Oklahoma City (OKC), a gathering of tribal and city leaders about tribal sovereignty, upcoming challenges, and best practices. Mayor Nichols spoke on a panel with OKC Mayor Holt, Chief Hill, Deputy Chief Warner about inter-government collaboration. Strong representation from all 38 Oklahoma tribes.
- d. Many tribes are electing new leaders, including Osage who welcomes incoming Principal Chief Joe Tillman and Assistant Principal Chief John Shaw. Tribal transition team meetings are now taking place. Chief Standingbear's last day will be June 30.

IV. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report



- a. Chairman Roberts read Commissioner Swope's report in her absence.
- b. Commissioner Swope welcomed a Tulsa Service Year Fellow, Ava Kincaid, who will help develop a policy plan and coordinate tribal town halls.
- c. Meetings and Events:
 - i. Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise
 - ii. Dance of the Two Moons
 - iii. National Park Conservation Association: continue discussions of potential funding for a cultural center
 - iv. Toured Freedmen Museum in OKC with Mayor Nichols
 - v. American Indian Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
 - vi. Indigenous Independence: American 250 at Gilcrease Museum
 - vii. 918 Lead: Spoke on Power of Policy Panel
- d. Working with Cherokee Nation to receive feedback on the naming of the Euchee Dam.
- e. City Council activity:
 - i. Rezoning application for Muscogee Riverline Development passed.
 - ii. Indian Health Care Resource Center deed dedication for waterline passed.
- f. Chairman Roberts and Vice Chair Carter will meet Commissioner Swope's service year fellow soon.

V. Action: Vote to Recommend Human Rights Commission Liaison for Appointment

- a. Commissioner Waeltz-Carter arrived at 5:47 pm.
- b. Commissioner Joyce Roberts shared about the Human Rights Commission's (HRC) current work, including her support of the goal to update the process for residents to submit human rights complaints.
- c. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to recommend Commissioner Joyce Roberts to continue as GTAIAC's liaison.
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour made a motion, Commissioner Waeltz-Carter seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Joyce Roberts is recommended to continue as GTAIAC's liaison on HRC.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reported they are working with the City on graphic design elements with volunteer support to speed up the process.
 - ii. Will host a Stomp Dance in the afternoon with exhibits from different tribes showcasing cultural materials.
 - iii. Next steps include designing t-shirts, engaging vendors, confirming student ambassadors, and working on PR and social media.
 - iv. Chairman Roberts shouted out Commissioner Joyce Roberts' team for printing postcards.
 - v. Next meeting is tomorrow at 6pm.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee



- i. Chairman Roberts highlighted Commissioner Queton's recent email supporting nominations for Dream Keepers.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Shari Williams: TPS recently wrapped up Indian Education summer programming, which included collaboration with several cultural organizations.
 - ii. Commissioner Leaf-Bolin: Jenks is also finishing summer school.
- d. Public Relations Committee
 - i. Commissioner Laskey highlighted the Gilcrease Museum's Indigenous exhibit. Information was sent from the GTAIAC Info email.
- e. Cultural Committee
 - i. The committee will begin meeting after GTAIAC monthly meetings.
 - ii. Commissioner Dorcas Williams would like to ground the committee in its stated purpose per the bylaws and offer more support to Native American Day.
 - iii. Interviews with survivors of boarding school will take place the week of June 26.
 - iv. Alternate Payton shared about North Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization's Cherokee language classes. They are running three concurrent classes because demand was so high.
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Commissioner Cohenour reported that the firm is finalizing a design for Dream Keepers Park and the project management team meets every couple of weeks. Next week, the Park's Cultural Committee will select the final design.
 - ii. Commissioners Swope and Cohenour met with the National Parks Conservation Fund again to continue conversations. They offer grant funding for signage, which is not covered by the current grant, so the City will apply.
 - iii. Also working on historical designation for the park through the state.
 - iv. Reflected on how proud GTAIAC should be of initiating the renovation process, never expected what it would grow into.
- g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Cater reported that the committee will begin reviewing GTAIAC bylaws for updates and alignment with the new ordinance.
 - ii. Committee meetings will be the second Monday of each month from 4 – 5 pm virtually, Lexi sent an invite.

VII. Old Business

- a. Tulsa Indian Club Run was rescheduled to Sunday, June 21. 6:30 am in-person registration starts, run begins at 7:30 am.

VIII. New Business – no new business

IX. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Owasso Cherokee Group meets on fourth Tuesday of every month



- b. June 20: Choctaw Nation will be at DoubleTree Downtown to update tribal registration card or receive federal ID
- c. June 24: Meeting 4 – 6 pm at Suite Shots to discuss community center
- d. June 27: Fishing Derby at Elm Creek Park, 9 am – 12 pm
- e. July 25 and 26: Tulsa Powwow
- f. Sept 26: Owasso Cherokee 4th Annual Powwow
- g. Commissioner Bible recognized Cherokee Nation Councilor Ashley Grant and Russell with Crosswinds News in the audience.
- h. July 24: Title V Commissions Retreat
- i. Apply for the next cohort of Neighborhood Academy by July 31

X. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Waeltz-Carter made a motion, Commissioner Shari Williams seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 14, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.