



Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | August 18, 2026 | 5:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Daniel Carter, Joe Deere, Matt Roberts, Amanda Swope, Dorcas Williams

Commissioners Absent: Cheryl Cohenour, Stacy Laskey, Kim Teehee, Mark Vancuren

Organizations Present: American Indian Chamber of Commerce, American Indian Resource Center, Greater Tulsa Cherokees, Indian Health Care Resource Center, Kiowa Tribe, North Tulsa Cherokee Community Organization, Tulsa Public Schools Indian Education, Tulsa Indian Club

Organizations Absent: Broken Arrow Intertribal Veterans

Tribal Nations Present: Cherokee Nation, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

I. Call to Order

- a. Chairman Matt Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.
- b. Roll Call
- c. Land Acknowledgment

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

- a. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to approve June meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Deere motioned, Commissioner Payton seconded.
 1. Aye: 15, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, June meeting minutes approved.

III. Chair / Vice Chair Report

- a. Chairman Roberts noted that GTAIAC is headed into its busiest season.
- b. The Dream Keeper Awards vote is in September and GTAIAC will recognize awardees at Native American Day (NAD) in October and an awards ceremony in November.
- c. TYPROS hosted a Title V Commissioners Meet and Greet in July to raise awareness of commissions. Chairman Roberts and Commissioner Cohenour attended and had conversations with several attendees.
- d. Title V and Beyond Apology Commissions Retreat was also in July. Several GTAIAC attended. Mayor Nichols attended and remarked that every commission is a leader for the Tulsa area and reminded everyone that something your commission creates today can exist in three, five, or ten years. This prompted



Chairman Roberts to look back at the history of GTAIAC initiatives such as Dream Keepers that began in the 90s.

- e. Vice Chair Carter yielded his time to Commissioner Bible to share updates about the intertribal community center.
 - i. Commissioner Bible shared the center is a Native American community priority because people want a space to gather. The first official board meeting took place, and the organization is filing necessary paperwork and laying groundwork to be able to launch public awareness. Still considering the location. Want to support additional organizations and need young people to bring inter-generational support. Hope to have another announcement within the next two months.
 - ii. Vice Chair Carter acknowledged that many individuals and organizations on the commission are contributing, and Commissioner Bible can call upon the commission as a body for support. Commissioner Bible shared he wants everyone's unique contributions.

IV. Director of Tribal Policy and Partnerships Report

- a. Reviewed City Council activity relevant to GTAIAC.
- b. Events and meetings
 - i. Participated in a Tribal Community Health Assessment led by Muscogee Nation Health Department.
 - ii. City of Tulsa's Domestic Violence Task Force wants to connect to tribes more due to high number of cases in the Native American community.
 - iii. Oral history boarding school event
 - iv. Tulsa City Councilor Dist 3 learning more about support to residents.
 - v. Sount Tulsa Dam: The project still in flux, different entities are determining their contributions and roles.
 - vi. Osage Nation inauguration
 - vii. MOU between the Office of Health and Well-being and Cherokee Nation.
 - viii. Muscogee Nation trust application for downtown property
 - ix. Muscogee Nation Government Relations
- c. Mayor Nichols met with each of the three chiefs before considering applications for the next Police Chief to receive their input, also sat in first round interviews.
- d. The Oklahoma Supreme Court ruled that the settlement agreement must go through the state tribal affairs committee. This is on pause until after the legislative break. Still strengthening public safety through cross-deputization agreements.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Native American Day Committee
 - i. Chair Roberts shared in Commissioner Cohenour's absence. He reviewed fundraising activities and t-shirt design finalization.
 - ii. Channel 6 will advertise NAD on October 6.
 - iii. Online registration links for parade, vendors, and volunteers are open.



- iv. Commissioner Dorcas Williams has confirmed all the singers. Reminded commissioners there will be an open drum.
- v. New TU president Stacy Leads confirmed she'll attend NAD.
- b. Dream Keepers Committee
 - i. Commissioner Queton has received eight nominations for eleven award categories so far. Looking for sports, spirituality, and career & professional nominations.
- c. Education Committee
 - i. Commissioner Shari Williams: TPS Indian Education met many of the new teachers to raise awareness of their program and connect with Native students. Back to School Bash supported 400+ students.
 - ii. Commissioner Leaf Bolin: Jenks distributed school supplies to 1,300 Native students.
 - iii. Vice Chair Carter: Indian Girls Book Club is an organization that sends books to kids from Native authors.
- d. Public Relations Committee – no report
- e. Cultural Committee
 - i. Cultural Committee is discussing having GTAIAC table at community events. Commissioner Dorcas Williams will be sure to provide proper notification of upcoming meetings.
- f. Parks Committee
 - i. Commissioner Swope provided an update on the Dream Keepers Park Cultural Advisory Meeting. The group provided feedback on three different concepts for the park and are awaiting an updated version of the concepts.
- g. Bylaws Committee
 - i. Vice Chair Carter reported that the Bylaws Committee is beginning work on revising the bylaws. Commissioners are welcome to attend virtual committee meetings on the second Monday of the month at 4pm and can send suggestions to Vice Chair Carter.

VI. Old Business – no old business

VII. New Business

- a. Commissioner Joyce Roberts shared an update from the Human Rights Commission (HRC):
 - i. HRC's goal to improve access to the human rights complaints process has gained a lot of momentum. There has been an ordinance update and cross-department work is taking place to launch an online complaint filing option.
 - ii. HRC is also working to improve representation across the authorities, boards, and commissions, including the two City Council districts that are under-represented.
 - iii. Added a new committee: Accessibility and Inclusion Committee

VIII. Announcements / Public Comments



RESILIENCE AND EQUITY

- a. Tomorrow (Aug. 19) at 4:30: Performing an honor song for TU President Stacy Leeds at the Reynolds Center
- b. Aug. 27: TU hosting Summit for United Indian Nations of OK
- c. Aug. 31 – Sept. 2: American Indian Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Summit at River Spirit
- d. Sept. 3: Annual Muscogee Vendor Fair at River Spirit
- e. Commissioner Deere provided NCAI updates.
- f. NCAI Sept 14 – 17 Unity Days in DC meeting with House, Senate, and subcommittees
- g. Oct 12 at 6pm: Indigenous Day at Cain's Ballroom

IX. Adjournment

- a. Chairman Roberts entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Commissioner Deere motioned, Commissioner Powell seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 15
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.