



Meeting Minutes

Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)

February 22, 2021, 1:00 pm

Video/Teleconference call

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Call to Order: 1:04 PM – Vice Chair Tuttle

Roll Call: Director Lisa Welch

Voting Members Present:

Felicia Ahasteen Bryant, Sara Albertson, Anthony Jones, David Liebel, Pete Magnant, Matthew Rea, Dorene Red Cloud, Secretary Paul Strack, J. Matthew Walsh

Voting Members Regrets:

Chairman Scott Brewer, Antoniette Holt, Sean Tierney

Voting Members Absent:

John Adams

Non-Voting Members Present:

Senator Greg Walker

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Representative Daniel Leonard

Non-Voting Members Regrets:

Guests: Ms. Debra Haza, Ms. Carolina Castoreno-Santana

Director Welch conducted roll call. A quorum was declared with ten (10) voting members present via video/teleconference in accordance with Executive Order 20-09 issued by Governor Eric J. Holcomb. Chair Brewer offered an invocation.

Old Business

- 1.) **Approval of Agenda**, Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the 02/21/20 meeting. Motion was made to approve by Sec. Strack, seconded by Felcia Ahasteen Bryant Agenda approved.
- 2.) **Approval of Minutes**, Request for approval of minutes by Sec. Strack, seconded by Pete Magnant. Minutes were approved
- 3.) **Financial Reports**, Clarification of financial report. Motion to approve by Felicia Ahasteen-Bryant, seconded by Sec. Strack. Reports were unanimously approved.
- 4.) **Director's Report**, Director Lisa Welch submitted the director's report. There was a brief update on scholarships, with a focus on Native American Heritage Month engagement report. There was significantly more reach through social media due to the month-long slate of virtual events and social media promotion..
- 5.) **Subcommittee Updates**, Commissioner Ahasteen-Bryant updated the commission on recent subcommittee meetings.
Application review – Electronic form will be configured in the new system



Vocational scholarship – Subcommittee is working with Ivy Tech to promote this scholarship.

Secretary Strack suggested Miami students attending Miami University in Ohio be qualified for scholarships. Vice Chair Tuttle explained that this is likely not possible because the license plate funding goes directly to the educational institutions, rather than the students, and it is stipulated that the schools operate in Indiana. Motion was tabled.

6.) Mission Review – Tim Schultz, ICRC Deputy Director and General Counsel, presented a review of the mission of the INAIAC, its areas of study, and role in making policy recommendations. A review of meeting policies and procedures was also presented on serial meetings, ethics rules and legislative members.

7.) Financial Review – Erik England, ICRC Chief Financial Officer, presented a review of the INAIAC financial reports, the license plate trust fund, procurement processes and policies, and questions regarding INAIAC funding. ICRC Director Greg Wilson reviewed the procurement submission process. Commissioner Ahasteen-Bryant asked about an allocation in the trust fund. Vice Chair Tuttle explained that the allocation was originally for a health clinic, and that those efforts had not been realized.

New Business

1.) Annual Report, Annual report was approved pending suggested minor edits and corrections.

Discussion

1.) Hunting and Fishing License, Director Welch updated the commission on the registration process for this reimbursement program. Rather than applicants registering as vendors through the state, they would be reimbursed by DNR, and the commission would enter into an MOU with the DNR. There is also an issue of consideration for members for state recognized tribes, and Director Welch will look into whether extending the benefit to those individuals falls within INAIAC statute.

2.) CAIRNS Grant – Director Welch shared recommended changes to the grant program, including

- MOU agreement with state agency
- Increase in dollar amount
- Holding accounts with partner organizations
- Director Welch to present draft of simplified application for review (See Director's Report)

Vice Chair Tuttle recommended the application changes. Voting on award amount changes were tabled until after those changes took effect.

3.) Procurement and programming for 2021 – Commissioner Ahasteen-Bryant updated the commission that the events subcommittee has been brainstorming on what kinds of programs could be developed such as an awakening of the earth, Heritage Month programs. Procurement timelines were also discussed and reviewed.

Public Comment: Debra Haza offered feedback on the use of license plate trust funds for COVID relief. Vice Chair Tuttle explained the program parameters and the types of initiatives that could be funded.



Carolina Castoreno-Santana, Executive Director of the American Indian Center of Indiana, presented the commission with feedback on the grant program, accessibility for applicants, and efficiency of program administration. She described the infrastructure that is already in place which ensures that program applicants fill eligibility requirements.

Announcements:

Adjournment – Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

DRAFT