

Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Eiteljorg Museum

500 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Voting Members Present

Sally Tuttle, Tracy Locke, Erin Oliver, Nathan Underwood, Shannon Turner, Stacy Townsley, Paul C. Strack, Joe Moser, David Liebel, Brenda Summers and Antoniette Holt

Voting Members Not Present

Peter Magnant, Cameron F. Clark

Non-voting Members

Senator Randy Head (not present)

Representative Dan Leonard (not present)

Two Vacancies:

Indiana Department of Education delegate

Native American Indian appointee

Staff Present

Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

Invocation

By the request of Chairperson Tuttle, Commissioner Turner provided the invocation.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Chairperson Tuttle. Executive Director Steiner performed a roll call which resulted in ten voting members being present at the start of the meeting. As a result, quorum was established. Commissioner Holt arrived later during the meeting.

Executive Director Steiner announced that Greg Bedan was no longer the Indiana Department of Education delegate due to the change in administration following the election.

Review Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Tuttle offered the December 14, 2016, meeting minutes for review. Executive Director Steiner brought up some corrections provided by some of the Commissioners in advance of the meeting and noted those changes would be made. Chairperson Tuttle then offered the October 9, 2016, meeting minutes for approval. Commissioner Summers made a motion to approve the October 9, 2016 meeting minutes; Commissioner Oliver seconded and the minutes were approved. Chairperson Tuttle then asked for a motion to approve the December 14, 2016 meeting minutes with corrections. Commissioner Townsley made said motion; Commissioner Summers seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda

Two items were added to the agenda. Chairperson Tuttle asked for a motion to approve the agenda with changes. Commissioner Underwood made the motion and Commissioner Moser seconded; the revised agenda was approved unanimously.

Financial Report

Chairperson Tuttle explained that without a Chief Financial Officer, budget reports could not be generated. In their absence, Executive Director Steiner created a spreadsheet that noted deposits made to the Native American License Plate Fund over the last year. The document also reflected the average annual income generated from the license plate sales.

Discussion – Old Business

Podcasts:

Commissioner Turner reported on the podcasts found on the Vision Media Maker website. She stated that there are several pages of videos to review and so far has found three videos suitable for elementary school aged children. For the middle school aged students she's found two that are appropriate, and she's also found some more for high school students due to the vocabulary contained within them. Executive Director Steiner added that she's been in contact with the Native American Education and Cultural Center at Purdue University to discuss sharing the Kanopy subscription with them, which would be necessary in order to live stream videos to classrooms.

Vocational Scholarships:

Executive Director Steiner stated the American Indian Center of Indiana (AICI) will serve again as the third party administrator for the scholarships and that AICI receives approximately 35 requests per year for vocational training assistance. Commissioner Oliver asked if AICI was able to assist everyone who asked and Executive Director Steiner stated that AICI has limited funding but attempts to assist each participant financially; the amount they receive may vary dependent upon how many participants receive assistance. Executive Director Steiner added that when deciding the scholarship amounts we should keep in mind that tuition amounts vary greatly and discussion was had on that as well as accreditation; however, it was decided that if a vocational program meets the AICI requirement guidelines they will likely meet ours. Chairperson Tuttle asked for input on dollar amounts and it was decided to create \$10,000 in scholarships with the minimum award being \$1,000 and the maximum award as \$2,500. Commissioner Moser made a motion to accept this proposal and Commissioner Oliver seconded; the motion was passed unanimously.

Teacher Education Grants:

Chairperson Tuttle brought up the Teacher Education Grant program and Executive Director Steiner she was about three-fourths of the way through gathering information from the pre-approved sites regarding what is taught to students, so this topic was put on hold until the next meeting.

Subcommittee Meeting Minutes:

Chairperson Tuttle explained that we had phone calls for all of the subcommittee meetings for the purpose of approving the minutes from all of them and Executive Director Steiner added that consent to approve was given so the Commission only needed to make a motion for final approval. Commissioner Liebel made said motion and Commissioner Oliver seconded; the minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion – New Business

Election of Officers:

Chairperson Tuttle stated we needed to elect two new officers for the positions of Vice Chair and Secretary, and began by asking for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Commissioner Underwood nominated Commissioner Strack for the position and Commissioner Locked seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously for Commissioner Strack to serve as Vice Chair.

Chairperson Tuttle then opened the nominations for the position of Secretary. Commissioner Turner nominated Commissioner Oliver to continue as the INAIAC Secretary and Commissioner Strack seconded said motion. Commissioner Strack then made a motion to close the nominations and Commissioner Underwood seconded the motion. Nominations were closed by a unanimous vote. Commissioner Oliver was unanimously elected to continue serving as the Secretary.

Town Hall Meetings:

Chairperson Tuttle opened the discussion about Town Hall Meetings by announcing that she received an unexpected invitation to hold a meeting at a previously scheduled event in Columbus. She provided a draft map depicting regional areas for each Commissioner. The subject of the INAIAC vacancy came up and Executive Director Steiner stated the map will change when that vacancy is filled, which will be after the new Boards and Commissions director is appointed. She added there is currently no INAIAC representation in the northwest or southwest part of the state and encouraged everyone to help get the word out about applying. Commissioner Turner added that there was a powwow coming up in Bloomington which might be a good place to announce the vacancy.

Bylaws:

Chairperson Tuttle brought up the subject of revising the Bylaws with regard to having the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) notify all of the INAIAC Commissioners when an accidental discovery of human remains occurs rather than just notifying the Executive Director. Commissioner Strack suggested putting language to this effect under the Powers and Duties section of the Bylaws; however, upon further discussion it was decided to table this topic as a Bylaw amendment.

IDOC Request for Shelters:

Chairperson Tuttle deferred to Commissioner Liebel from the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) regarding a request that was received from a nonprofit organization in Sullivan County seeking picnic tables and small cabins for their park, which is located near a former ceremonial mound. These would be used by school groups and for camping events. The IDOC is providing the picnic tables so a request for assistance on purchasing eight cabins was conveyed to the Commission. The estimated material cost for the cabins would be \$26,000 and Commissioner Liebel stated that IDOC can provide the construction labor and supervision as well as delivering them to the park. Executive Director Steiner added that Commissioner Clark from the DNR has agreed to share the cabin blueprints should the project go forward. There was discussion among the Commissioners about what was being taught at the park about so it was decided to table this discussion after more information had been obtained.

Chairperson Tuttle added that the topic of the hunting and fishing licenses would be on the next agenda because we were still working out the details with DNR, and Commissioner Underwood asked if the topic of using tribal ID cards for voting could be added to the agenda as well. Executive Director Steiner stated the use of tribal ID cards for voting would have to be done through legislation whereas the free hunting

and fishing permit program is being discussed directly with DNR. Chairperson Tuttle then reiterated the nature of the program that had been discussed during the previous INAIAC meeting. At this point a member of the public (previously identified on a Public Comment form as Mr. Jeremy Turner (Shawnee)), interjected his objection to the program, although the floor had not yet been opened to Public Comments. The topic then turned to Treaty Rights with regard to hunting and fishing and Chairperson Tuttle stated the INAIAC has to do what is best for Indiana's Native people today rather than wait years for legislation that honors Treaty Rights.

Mr. Turner then turned the topic of conversation to the INAIAC being notified when remains were found and voiced his objection to the proposed idea of the Commissioners being notified. Chairperson Tuttle emphasized that she saw the INAIAC as supporting the tribes should this situation occur.

Another member of the public who identified herself as Ms. Diane Hunter, Federal Historic Preservation Officer for the Miami Nation of Oklahoma, stated she felt the only role the INAIAC should be taking in the event human remains are found is to ensure that DNR was notifying the federally recognized tribes. Chairperson Tuttle restated that she only wanted the other Commissioners notified, not to be involved in any action upon notification. Commissioner Turner suggested if any of the Commissioners are asked about remains found that they should tell the person to contact Executive Director Steiner since she's being notified by DNR anyway.

Adjournment:

As there was no other business to come before the commission, Chairperson Tuttle asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Strack made said motion and Commissioner Turner seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously at 2:54 p.m.