

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

Wednesday, May 11, 2016
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Eiteljorg Museum
500 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Voting Members Present

Erin Oliver, Tracy Locke, Peter Magnant, Dave Liebel, Stacy Townsley, Brittany Sanders, Joe Moser, Cameron F. Clark, Greg Bedan and Brenda Summers

Voting Members Not Present

John Boyd, Nathan Underwood, Shannon Turner

Non-voting Members

Senator Randy Head (not present)
Representative Dan Leonard (not present)

Staff Present

Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Commissioner Magnant. Executive Director Steiner performed a roll call which resulted in 10 voting members and no non-voting member being present at the start of the meeting. As a result, the meeting established a quorum.

Invocation

By the request of Executive Director Steiner, Commissioner Magnant provided the invocation.

Review Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for the March 09, 2016, commission meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. Commissioner Clark requested amendments regarding discussion about the DNR Specimen collection process. The reference to “members of federally recognized tribes” was misattributed to Commissioner Clark and should have been attributed to Executive Director Steiner. He also proposed an amendment in regards to comments about DNR staff requesting a tribal ID. Commissioner Clark clarified that the purpose of the request was so that DNR staff was not put in the position of having to determine who is Native American. Commissioner Cameron Clark’s proposed amendments were noted, and he made a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the proposed amendments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Liebel. All commissioners were in favor of approving the meeting minutes as amended.

Announcements

Executive Director Steiner introduced and welcomed new commissioner, Stacey Townsley, who has replaced Sarah Ancel as a representative from the Commission for Higher Education. She also shared that John Boyd was having medical issues which prevented him from being at the meeting and requested that all in attendance keep him in their thoughts.

Financial Report

Executive Director Steiner reported there were a number of highlighted areas on the financial report that were originally lumped under the state due to a newly appointed staff person who didn't have a full understanding of differences between the Commission's state funds and license plate funds; however, the appropriate adjustments were made.

INAIAC Overview

Executive Director Steiner addressed a number of issues that have been brought before the Commission. She highlighted that the governor appointed the current commissioners. She reiterated that all concerns about the current or future appointments should be directed to the governor's office. She also reported that Chairman Warren had expressly stated at the May 20, 2015, meeting that the issue of non-federally recognized Commissioners would be resolved through attrition. Since Chairman Warren's statements are part of the Commission's permanent record, there will be no further discussion about Commission appointments at the business meetings.

She also reported that going forward, the Bylaws will be followed with respect to public comments at the end of the Commission meetings. Specifically, any topic to be addressed by the public that are not on the agenda must be submitted in writing in advance of the meeting. The Commission will vote as to whether to members of the public are granted floor time and the Chair has the option of deciding how long they may speak.

Executive Director Steiner also clarified the role of INAIAC. She reported that per the Governor's website there are three types of boards and commissions:

- Policy — A policy board, commission or council is specifically charged by statute to promulgate public policies or regulations. Policy boards may also be charged by statute with adjudicating violations of those policies or regulations. (Example: Civil Rights Commission)
- Supervisory — A supervisory board, commission or council is responsible for agency operations, including approval of appropriations requests. Supervisory boards appoint the agency director, and the board ensures that the agency director complies with all board and statutory directives. Agency directors serve at the pleasure of the board. (Example: Indiana Commission for Women)
- Advisory — An advisory board, commission or council serves as a formal liaison between the agency and the public, ensuring that the agency understands and responds to public concerns and that the activities of the agency are communicated to the public. Advisory boards provide advice and counsel to executive branch agencies. (Example: INAIAC)

Executive Director Steiner noted that consent from the Commission is not a requirement with respect to day-to-day operations and decisions. She also reported that the two Commission vacancies are being addressed. She is in the process of interviewing candidates. She will be completing interviews shortly and forwarding to the Boards and Commissions Director for appointments.

Podcasts

Executive Director Steiner located a series of podcasts that maybe helpful to the Commission. The Commission's legal team is checking on copyright concerns. It appears that it will not be a concern, but that is in the process of being confirmed. The podcasts have been done by Tom McCormick. Steiner was not able to find a tribal affiliation and therefore, is asking Commission members and members of the public to provide any feedback or knowledge on Mr. McCormick.

DNR Specimen Collection Process

DNR has provided permit information and forms have been added to the INAIAC website as well as the DNR website.

Open House

Working with the Eiteljorg Museum to determine a date. Weekends are very full, so a Thursday is being considered. Commissioner Oliver also proposed a Sunday afternoon event. Executive Director Steiner will continue to work with Eiteljorg staff to identify a date and time that works.

Town Hall Meetings/Surveys

Executive Director Steiner has been in contact with a student that is affiliated with Purdue University's Native American Education and Cultural Center regarding putting together surveys to present at events and gatherings around the state. The purpose of these surveys would be to determine what issues and concerns people would like the Commission's subcommittees to address. However, logistically she was not able to connect with the student in order to make the surveys happen. Therefore, she attended an event and took an informal approach in talking with members of the public and handing out materials. She plans to continue with this well received approach.

Community Education Grants

Executive Director Steiner reiterated the idea of funding Native American themed fieldtrips for state K-12 institutions. Specifically the funds could be used for transportation or admission to a variety of locations around the state. Commissioner Oliver asked what standard transportation expenses cost. A representative from Conner Prairie shared that school typically pay between \$150 and \$250 per bus. A bus will transport approximately 50 students.

Commissioner Magnant asked about placing a maximum number of grants to be awarded for each year. Executive Director Steiner reported that the Commission's average monthly income is \$3000-\$3500/month, and suggested that \$3000-\$5000 could be awarded annually without too much risk. She also suggested that the total amount could be adjusted annually as needed.

The Commission also discussed creating and expressly stating parameters of the grant. Executive Director Steiner stated that after the parameters are determined, she would be able to process and approve those that meet the qualifications.

Commissioner Oliver also suggested that we do not predetermine locations, but rather have the institution propose and explain the rationale for the location and related activities. This would prevent any concerns with a State commission supporting specific private entities. She asked Executive Director Steiner to create an application that the Commission could approve.

Education Subcommittee

Commissioner Locke reported that there were four qualified applicants for the summer 2016 semester. She shared that each of those four were awarded \$1250. Commissioner Magnant proposed that the subcommittee revisit the application after the first round in order to clarify and better the process. Executive Director Steiner reported that a few immediate changes were made in conjunction with the American Indian Center. Specifically, these changes were related to timelines and University procedures.

Civil Rights Subcommittee

Executive Director Steiner is assisting with a drum repair from the Miami Correctional Facility.

The subcommittee has continued to work on the “squaw” renaming project. It was reported that some renaming will need to be done, and the committee has decided to reach out to tribes to assist with this project.

The issue of utilizing tribal identification for voting was raised in a prior meeting. Executive Director Steiner did confirm that utilizing tribal identification cards would require a legislative change. She suggested that the Commission look to Illinois which has made a similar change. She stated that if this is something that the Commission would like to pursue, the Commission would need to approach our legislative representatives in order to have legislation introduced. Executive Director highlighted a number of benefits to making this change.

The subcommittee also discussed ways to boost morale of those currently incarcerated in Department of Correction facilities. It was suggested that the commission could contact tribes and request donations as well as utilizing the free podcasts mentioned earlier in the meeting. Executive Director Steiner is hoping to be able to provide something

A letter to all hospitals in the state was recently sent in order to remind medical facilities of the legal protections Native people have in regards to practicing their religion within medical facilities. Commissioner Liebel asked who the letters were sent to. Executive Director Steiner reported that the letters were sent in ICRC envelopes to hospital administrators.

Commissioner Oliver recalled Commissioner Liebel suggesting that these letters being sent to the Chaplain network. Commissioner Liebel reiterated that it would be a good way to deliver the information to those who are actually doing the work. Executive Director Steiner will connect with Commissioner Liebel for the appropriate contact information.

Employment Subcommittee

Commissioner Clark reported that the subcommittee met a month prior to determine how the group can fulfill their role. At the moment they are in informational resource, but discussed connecting with the

Education Subcommittee to offer funding for vocational training. After discussing this prospect, the subcommittee determined that any scholarships are best coming from the education committee and the Employment Subcommittee would continue to be an information resource. He communicated that the subcommittee is open to suggestions as they find their way.

Health Subcommittee

It was reported that there was an opening in the Health Subcommittee. Commissioner Magnant offered to fill the subcommittee vacancy in the interim.

Public Comments

The Commission voted to open up the floor for public comment on anything addressed on the agenda today.

A member of the public suggested reaching out to state superintendents across the state to share information regarding the educational grant program.

Ms. Morning Lark Basket shared the desire for all people to work together on preserving language in order to preserve culture. She also shared her opinion that people need to be respectful of one another, teach our youth, and keep women and children safe.

Ms. Rita Kohn took a moment to pay tribute to Luis Ketchum who has recently passed. He was a descendant of the Indiana Delaware who was removed from Indiana to Kansas and then to Oklahoma around 1866.

Sally Tuttle reported that anyone who would like to meet the Ketchum family can connect with them at the Anderson powwow in September. She reported that they attend every year.

Adjournment:

As there was no other business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned by a motion introduced by Commissioner Magnant and seconded by Commissioner Oliver.