

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

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Eiteljorg Museum

500 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

**Voting Members Present**

Sally Tuttle, Erin Oliver, Tracy Locke, Peter Magnant, Shannon Turner, Dave Liebel, Stacy Townsley, Cameron F. Clark, and Brenda Summers

**Voting Members Not Present**

Nathan Underwood, Joe Moser, Antoinette Holt, Greg Bedan

**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 1:07 pm by Chairperson Tuttle. Executive Director Steiner performed a roll call which resulted in nine voting members and three non-voting member being present at the start of the meeting. As a result, the meeting established a quorum.

**Invocation**

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

**Review Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes for the August 10, 2016, commission meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. Commissioner Underwood requested the addition of information provided by the guest speaker, Doug Poe. Executive Director Steiner reported that guest speaker information is not standardly included in the minutes. Commissioner Underwood also requested clarification on eligibility of participants to be awarded scholarships from both AICI (American Indian Center of Indiana) and INAIAC. Executive Director Steiner clarified that AICI currently allows participants to receive educational scholarships from both entities. As the commission is still developing a vocational program, Executive Director Steiner does not have the answer to the vocation piece. This will be discussed prior to entering into an MOU with AICI. Commissioner Clark a motion to approve the meeting minutes with the comments and proposed amendments as discussed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dave Liebel. All commissioners were in favor of approving the meeting minutes as amended.

## **Agenda**

Chairperson Tuttle proposed an amendment to the agenda to include the topics of eliminating “the R word” from local schools. Commissioner Turner has also asked that we amend the bylaws to include allowing public comment prior to a vote in order to obtain the public’s input. Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda. Commissioner Turner seconded the amendment. All commissioners were in favor of approving the additions.

## **Old Business**

*Podcasts-* Vision Maker Media creates videos that are culturally appropriate in conjunction with PBS. Steiner has been working on 1 hour film in an educational version of the DVD would be a cost of \$168.75 with a license in perpetuity. These could be used for public viewing. If the Commission would like to purchase DVDs to provide to school districts, the cost would be \$114.98/DVD. Digital licensing is also available at a cost of \$1000. This would allow teachers and community groups to login to the commission sponsored website and screen videos to their classrooms. There would also be a \$100/year fee for the hosting services required for the online screening. Commissioner Clark raised questions regarding the website security concerns which are monitored by the State. Commissioner Liebel suggested a route involving the commission granting to a third party such as a state university, to execute the program. Executive Director Steiner will continue to research in this area.

*Bicentennial Legacy Project-* Executive Director Steiner reported that the project is going really great. Two locations had been delivered and two more were scheduled for the next week. She encouraged anyone interested and in the area to attend. Dedication of the Circle of Stones will be on November 3, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. at Prophetstown State Park. This is a bicentennial legacy program sponsored by Prophetstown.

*Teacher’s Education Grants-* Executive Director Steiner reported that a maximum of \$250 appears to be an appropriate amount to be awarded. She suggested that the grant should work as a reimbursement program. Commissioner Turner suggested a March application deadline for the following fall semester. She also highlighted that fieldtrips are typically done by a grade level rather than a classroom. Executive Director Steiner clarified that the current set up would cover one trip, rather than each class that is participating. Commissioner Liebel also raised concerns about the payment reimbursement process that is typically used in the State government. Executive Director Steiner reported that the state budget office has reported that a W-9 will need to be completed for each school/individual who had applied. Commissioner Turner offered to speak with other teachers in her district to learn more about how they are funding their fieldtrips. She will follow up with Executive Director Steiner when she has more information. Commission Oliver raised a question about the two year exclusion on the current application. She suggested that “priority will be given to those who haven’t received an award in the past year.” This was favored among the commission. It was also determined that that grants would be a first come, first serve approach.

*November Open House-* The event was not highly attended. The city was very busy, but those who attended had a wonderful time. Commissioner Magnant reported that the catering was amazing. Commissioner Turner suggested moving around from university to university to better connect and have them assist with advertising.

## **New Business**

*School Supplies-* Executive Director Steiner has worked with AICI to identify 18 students in 10 families in need to assist in replenishing their school supplies for the new year. The 18 children range from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Doug Poe is obtaining supply pricing through a vendor that he frequently works with. Executive Director Steiner reported that the State of Indiana has a contract with Staples, and she would be able to compare prices. Chairperson Tuttle reported that this would be a pilot project to see how the program would work logistically. However, if it is successful, this might be an annual program. Commissioner Turner suggested that the program work for all Indian families, not just those who meet poverty guidelines. She also suggested that folder, hand sanitizer, and tissues are items that schools frequently need. Commissioner Turner also suggested connecting the program to the commission open houses to distribute supplies. Commissioner Oliver agreed and stated that this could be beneficial to recruitment for the hosting universities.

*National Congress of the American Indian Conference-* Chairperson Tuttle attended as a representative of the Commission. She reported that ICWA and Standing Rock were major topics throughout the week. She also reported that IHS is refurbishing their current facilities.

*Battlefield Monument-* Commissioner Locke brought up the lack of a monument honoring the native people who were lost in the Battle of Tippecanoe, adding that there is a plaque for the soldiers who died in the battle. Commissioner Clark asked about ownership of the property. Commissioner Locke will follow up on this to determine next steps.

*R Word Elimination-* Chairperson Tuttle asked about what work had previously been addressed. Commissioner Liebel reported that an intern had done some research on the issues. Executive Director Steiner reported that the commission had never taken an official stance on the issue. Chairperson Tuttle reported that she would like the commission to take a position of elimination and work to approach and educate school systems that are currently using the word as a mascot. Commissioner Clark stated that approaching the issue in an educational manner could be an effective path. He stated that a position statement could be a first step. Commissioner Summers raised concerns about singling out a specific organization. She suggested a multi-faceted approach including communication with school superintendents. Commissioner Townsley highlighted the need for the entire community to be heard so that the commission is not speaking for individuals without their buy in. Commissioner Turner asked about the best research for the historical information. Commissioner Locke reported that prior Chairman Warren had provided significant information in a prior committee meeting. Executive Director Steiner will look for this information. Commissioner Liebel suggested identifying resources for schools to assist in name changes.

*Public Comment Amendment-* Commissioner Turner raised concerns about not being able to hear the opinions of the public attending prior to voting on a specific matter. Executive Director Steiner reported that the public comment at the end of a meeting is based on state statute. Commissioner Clark reported that there is a Public Access Officer who may be able to assist in identifying a work-around to meet the needs of all parties. Commissioner Magnant questioned if a "listening period" prior to a vote would work. Executive Director Steiner will follow up with the Public Access Officer for more information.

### **2017 Meetings**

Executive Director Steiner led discussion on the frequency and scheduling of 2017 meetings. Commissioner Clark suggested that the commission may have enough information to begin meeting bi-monthly. Commissioner Liebel motioned that we officially move the meeting calendar from quarterly to bi-monthly. Commissioner Oliver seconded it. It was determined that the commission will meet in December, February, April, June, August, and October. Commissioner Turner asked about what day of the week works best for everyone. No one objected to keeping the meetings on Wednesdays. All commissioners were in favor of the change.

### **Public Comments**

A member of the public, Jeremey Turner, asked to discuss hunting rights within Indiana. He is proposing that the commission encourage the DNR to provide all Indiana residents who are members of federally recognized tribes be eligible for annual trapping, fishing, and hunting permits at no cost. He suggested that Kansas would be a state we could look to for guidance. He reported that all state gaming laws would be followed, this would only be a fee waiver.

A member of the public suggested that the commission identify a list of schools that have already changed their mascot to eliminate the R Word. A public kudos may encourage others to follow their peers. Deborah Haza suggested that the Department of Education could assist in facilitating the communication related to this program.

### **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 Locke.