

Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs
April 23, 2021
Quarterly Board Meeting

Attendance:

Commissioners Present

Georgianna Ausan, (*Member At Large*)
Gabriel Bruguier, (*City of Lincoln Rep*)
Dr. Rudi Mitchell, (*City of Omaha Rep*)
Stuart Redwing, (*Santee Sioux Tribe (Vice Chairman, Tribal Rep.)*)
Thelma Whitewater, (*Winnebago Tribe*)
Kirby Williams, (*City of Omaha Rep (Urban Rep.)*)
Darren Wolfe, (*Omaha Tribe (Tribal Rep.)*)
Larry Wright, Jr., (*Chairman*)

Commissioners Absent

Arthur Harvey, (*Northern Panhandle Rep*)

Ex-Officio Present

Commission Staff Present

Judi M. gaiashkibos, (*Executive Director*)
Scott Shafer, (*Administrative Assistant II*)
Alicia Gray, (*Administrative Secretary*)

Commission Staff Absent

Call to Order:

The April 23rd, 2021 quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs at UNL's West Stadium Club was called to order by Chairman Larry Wright, Jr. at 1:34p.m. CST.

The invocation was given by Dr. Rudi Mitchell for the day in the previous UNL Chancellor's Tribal Leadership Meeting.

Roll call indicated eight of nine current commissioners in attendance constituting a quorum.

Introduction [*Chancellor Ronnie Green*]:

Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and brief presentation on University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Native American partnership initiative.

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Motion #1 Commissioner Bruguier motioned to approve the April 23, 2021 agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Redwing.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.

Old Business:

Motion #2 Commissioner Redwing motioned to approve the January 29, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitewater.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.

Motion #3 Commissioner Redwing motioned to approve the General Ledger Detail Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ausan.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.

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New Business:

Motion #4 Commissioner Whitewater motioned to approve Executive Director's 2% pay raise. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.

A. Fiscal Year '21-'23 Appropriations -

1. Scott Shafer shared that the agency submitted their appropriations request to the appropriations committee and the governor's office. The meeting packet provided shows, for the upcoming fiscal year, that the agency requested \$255,963. The governor's office recommended \$246,801, and the legislature recommended \$246,647. The slight difference between the governor and legislature recommendations likely comes from small differences in figuring payroll expenses. The difference between the agency's request and the others came from an unapproved director pay increase.
2. Chairman Wright, Jr. inquired about agencies' qualification for CARES Act money. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that she followed up with Matt Miltenberger, the Governor's Chief of Staff, and he said that NCIA would not qualify as a Non-Code Agency. She also shared that, per statute, the State is in the process of creating an African American Commission as well as a Gaming Commission in the image of pre-existing commissions.

B. Director's Report -

1. Executive Director gaiashkibos referenced calendar listing all meetings within the last three months. She spoke specifically to Lincoln Community Foundation and tribal license plate funds to include four \$5,000 scholarships. She introduced the chair of the scholarship selection committee, Alexander Mallory, and mentioned that once the final list of names is ready, it will be sent to Omaha World Story and Lincoln Journal Star for a newspaper story.
2. A bronze sculpture of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte will be placed on Centennial Mall. Included in the meeting packet are renderings of the sculpture as well as a press release from March.
3. Marty Bilek, the Omaha Mayor's Chief of Staff, and the City of Omaha is working on a Chief Big Elk sculpture to be placed along the Missouri River front. Artist Benjamin Victor was selected to create this \$200,000+ piece.
4. NCIA sent a request for a matching grant for \$100,000 to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for the Dr. Susan Center. Previous grants for the hospital restoration efforts include two grants from the United State Department of Agriculture as well as a \$50,000 grant from the Shakopee.
5. Corona Pandemic Comic book (included in in-person packets and mailed to zoom attendees) will be distributed to Lincoln Public School students as well as those attending four tribal schools.
6. University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health Endowed Chair will be named after Susan and Susette La Flesche. The hiring process is reaching its final stages for the Professor in American Indian Health position.

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C. 107th Legislature Review & Updates - *(among many others, the agency focused mainly on the following)*

1. LB359: Multi-cultural education bill introduced by Senator Pansing Brooks
 - a. Executive Director gaiashkibos testified in support of LB359. This bill has not yet reached final stages.
2. LB185: City of Omaha's Federally Qualified Health Center appropriation bill introduced by Senator Brewer
 - a. This was not added to appropriations budget, but parties involved are optimistic about floor approval.

D. Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Sculpture Project -

1. Film Update:
 - i. \$20,000 came from agency appropriated funds to be used before June. \$12,000 came from Humanities Grant Award that was received. The remaining funds will come from a known possible donor. Movie funds will ultimately total \$35,000.
 - a. Documentary director, Ingrid Holmquist, has completed a portion of interviews including with Susanna Gilega who will be receiving her PhD after defending her dissertation on Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte.
 - b. The agency will likely work with Nancy Engen-Wedin to create curriculum, teacher's guides, etc.
2. Sculpture Update:
 - a. Sculpture will come to Lincoln in June around the 9th -17th (tentatively). NCIA will cohost a reception, with the Dr. Susan Center, at the Jane Snyder Center with appetizers and a presentation by the artist (Ben Victor). During the week, groups such as students will be welcomed to visit.

E. Chief Standing Bear Courage Prize - Sunday, October 10th, 2021

1. This inaugural, national competition will culminate in a fundraising event that is planned to be held at Lincoln's Commercial Club Ballroom. There will be a \$5,000 award given to a single recipient. Executive Director gaiashkibos asked the group for submissions when site goes live in the coming weeks.
2. Gregg Wright of Lincoln, NE spearheaded this effort after nearly 20 years of experience with the Christa McAuliffe Prize for Courage. 501c3 corporation status of the organization has been applied for by Larry Dwyer (attorney in Omaha) and Kent Seacrest (attorney in Lincoln).
3. Hal Haloun donated an oil painting titled Corn Silk Moon worth \$5,000 that will be auctioned

F. Indigenous Peoples Day - Monday, October 11th, 2021

1. Events to include: unveiling of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Sculpture with speakers from Omaha Nation, Congressman Fortenberry, and others. Tribal flag procession from Centennial Mall to the Warner Chamber in the Capitol Building.
2. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that tribal leaders have sent invitation to US Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. Later in the meeting, Chairman Wright updated the group that the Nebraska Inter-Tribal Coalition did submit that invitation and received word from Larry Roberts (Chief of Staff) that they will try to reserve the date for activities in Nebraska.

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G. Miscellaneous Business -

1. Commissioner Redwing introduced comment about a phone call from Nebraska Medicaid Office. Alicia Gray expressed that the agency had received a phone call from Holly Mccance of DHHS a few days earlier and that she would follow-up regarding these calls. Executive Director gaiashkibos mentioned that oftentimes, state employees will look at NCIA's agency budget and assume a larger staff than exists in reality. Scott Shafer offered that unemployment may sometimes look at totality of a commissioner's income. NCIA Office will follow up on this matter.
2. Executive Director gaiashkibos shared her honor of receiving the Laurie Smith Camp Integrity in Service Award. The two worked together on Whiteclay Legislation, Laurie was present in D.C. when the Standing Bear Sculpture was placed in Statuary Hall, and she was the donor for the Willa Cather Sculpture to be placed in Statuary Hall.
3. Commissioner Wolfe inquired how the state of Nebraska was planning to be involved with NIEA Convention.
 - i. Executive Director gaiashkibos reported that she did receive an email from Marian Holstein detailing a planning committee meeting.
 - ii. Commissioner Redwing shared that the same calendar included in the meeting packet had been sent to the tribes and they would be involved.
4. Commissioner Whitewater asked for comic books for reservation schools. NCIA Office will follow up as to who to ship to or who might be able to pick up.
5. Commissioner Ausan inquired about work on suicide prevention.
 - i. Executive Director gaiashkibos referenced resources received from Josie Rodriguez of DHHS. She also suggested rekindling conversations related to the work.
 - ii. Chairman Wright, expressed dissatisfaction of funding distribution based on census counts.
 - iii. Pending Commissioner Porter reported that bi-weekly meetings of the suicide prevention coalition still take place and that part of the issue is funding related and a greater part is their capacity (therapist, psychologists, etc.).

Chairman Wright entertained a motion to approve the election slate. The next elections would take place in October 2022.

Motion #5 Commissioner Whitewater motioned to approve Commission Election Slate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.

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Chairman Wright proposed August 6th at 10am to be the date and time of the next Board Meeting. The location was left TBD. Chairman Wright suggested the new Ponca Health Center if ready by then. Commissioner Redwing offered to ask the Santee for use of a room at their Casino.

Motion #6 Commissioner Bruguier motioned to approve date & time of next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Redwing.

For: Ausan Bruguier Mitchell Redwing Whitewater Williams Wolfe

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion carried by roll-call vote. Chair did not vote.

Motion #7 Commissioner Redwing motioned to adjourn meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruguier.

For: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion designated unavoidable by Chair.

Quarterly Meeting of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs adjourned Friday, April 23, 2021 at 2:50p.m. CST.