

City of Albuquerque
Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 20, 2019

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

City of Albuquerque Area Agency on Aging Conference Room
700 4th St. SW - Albuquerque, NM 87102

1. Call to Order and Invocation

Ron Solimon called meeting to order at 10:39am and provided invocation.

Ron Solimon welcomed Terry Sloan.

Commission Members Present: Ron Solimon, Laurie Weahkee, Lloyd Lee, and Alicia Ortega

Commission Members Absent: Mike Canfield

Others Present: Dawn Begay (Native American Affairs Coordinator – COA Office of Equity and Inclusion), Isaiah Curtis (Native American Homelessness Liaison – COA Family and Community Services), and Terry Sloan (Director – Southwest Native Cultures).

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda item #3 was changed to Introduction of City of Albuquerque Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison.

Agenda item #4 was changed to Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Agenda item #5 was changed to Briefing on City of Albuquerque Native American Affairs.

Agenda item #7 was changed to Briefing on Albuquerque Public Schools Indian Education Stakeholders Committee.

Agenda item #8 was changed to Review 2019 Commission AI/AN Affairs Report.

A motion was made by Laurie Weahkee to approve agenda.

For: Lloyd Lee, Alicia Ortega, and Ron Solimon.

Against: None

Excused: Mike Canfield

3. Introduction of City of Albuquerque Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison

Terry Sloan stated that his official start date as the COA Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison is September 3, 2019 as a 0.5 FTE contracted employee with the COA Office of Equity and Inclusion. However, he noted he already signed the contract. Dawn Begay will email Board a copy of Mr. Sloan's biography for reference.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

For more information please contact Lloyd Lee at llee35@gmail.com or 505-277-1822.

A motion was made by Laurie Weahkee to approve the March 20, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Lee.

For: Ron Solimon

Against: None

Excused: Mike Canfield. Alicia Ortega abstained from vote as she was not a Commission member during the March 20, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Lloyd Lee to approve the July 16, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Laurie Weahkee.

For: Alicia Ortega and Ron Solimon

Against: None

Excused: Mike Canfield

5. Briefing on City of Albuquerque Native American Affairs

Dawn Begay confirmed the Mayor's Office received 15 applications for the Commission on AI/AN Affairs by the August 1, 2019 priority deadline. Dawn and Constituent Services staff reviewed applications, provided recommendations, and selected finalist to be processed for background checks.

Dawn Begay stated that she attended the Americans for Indian Opportunity monthly meeting and the Native Leaders Collective of Albuquerque bi-monthly meeting and was asked if current Commission members and other community members could be involved in the selection process of new Commission members. Dawn will meet with the Mayor's Office on 08/20/2019 to determine whether or not current Commission members and community members can be a part of the selection process.

Laurie Weahkee stated that the community should be included in the Commission selection process. The different sectors should be given the opportunity to weigh in on who is being nominated to the Commission to represent their sector and that current Commission members should also have some influence in the selection process. If applicants know they will be reviewed by the Commission and/or community, it encourages individuals who value transparency and community involvement to apply.

Dawn Begay urged the Commission to consider making a recommendation to amend the Ordinance to include a membership selection process and to decide what to do when there are multiple applicants for one sector.

Alicia Ortega suggested creating a selection process to narrow down the finalist and recommends the finalist be available for a public Q&A session.

Dawn stated that four of the five current Commission members' terms end on September 30, 2019. She asked if the Commission if they would like the Mayor's Office to proceed with current finalist recommendations or wait until the Commission has determined a selection process.

For more information please contact Lloyd Lee at llee35@gmail.com or 505-277-1822.

Lloyd Lee recommended the Commission create a selection process that involves the Commission and community before the Mayor's Office continues processing current applications.

Terry Sloan stated that it is important to have community involvement and for individuals representing a sector to get support from the communities they come from. It may increase accountability, creditability, and transparency.

A motion was made by Laurie Weahkee for the Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs to develop a membership selection process that includes community input. The motion was seconded Alicia Ortega.

For: Lloyd lee and Ron Solimon.

Against: none

Excused: Mike Canfield

Ron Solimon will submit a letter to the Mayor and request a meeting with Constituent Services to discuss the COA Commission on American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs membership selection process.

Laurie suggested this matter be tabled until next Commission meeting.

6. Review New Commission on AI/AN Affairs Members Orientation Packet

Laurie Weahkee stated that she drafted a Strategic Initiatives document, which includes accomplishments of current Commission members, recommendations for new Commission members, and suggestions for improvement.

Ron Solimon stated that he will draft a final report-out document. He requested Laurie submit her Strategic Initiatives document to Lloyd for editing. He also requested Dawn to provide him copies of the ordinance, link to Commission application, background check forms, and any other documents or forms necessary for new Commission members to have.

Laurie suggested this matter be tabled until next Commission meeting and her action item be changed from Orientation Packet to Recommendations Report.

Terry Sloan reported that once he starts, he will be responsible for staffing the Commission and assisting with getting appointments from Tribes for Commission members.

Ron stated that Mayor Keller gave him permission to reach out to Tribes and that Mayor Keller already submitted letters to the tribal leadership. Ron requested Terry schedule a meeting with him, Dawn, and Alicia.

Alicia offered to add City representatives to the next All Pueblo Council of Governors meeting on Thursday August 22, 2019 at Sky City to make an announcement on Commission membership. She will email Board agenda.

7. Briefing on Albuquerque Public Schools Indian Education Stakeholders Committee

A motion was made by Ron Solimon that this matter be postponed to next meeting.

For: Lloyd Lee, Alicia Ortega, and Laurie Weahkee

Against: None

Excused: Mike Canfield

8. Review 2019 Commission on AI/AN Affairs Report

A motion was made by Ron Solimon that this matter be postponed to next meeting.

For: Lloyd Lee, Alicia Ortega, and Laurie Weahkee

Against: None

Excused: Mike Canfield

9. Public Comment

None

10. Next Meeting(s)

September 17, 2019 from 8:30am-10:00am at the City of Albuquerque Area Agency on Aging Conference Room (700 4th St. SW - Albuquerque, NM 87102)

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lloyd Lee to adjourn meeting at 12:11pm. The motion was seconded by Laurie Weahkee.

For: Alicia Ortega and Ron Solimon

Against: None

Excused: Mike Canfield