



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

JULY 17, 2018

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rudy Ortega at 7:45 PM.

Commissioners and Commission staff including Sandi Mitchell (Interim Executive Assistant) and Alexandra Valdes (New Executive Assistant) introduced themselves.

II. APPROVE MINUTES

The minutes for the June 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved. Vice Chair Chrissie Castro motioned to approve the minutes and Commissioner Paula Starr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. SELF-GOVERNANCE BOARD TIMING

Chrissie Castro raised issue regarding the new Self-Governance Board start time and not consulting the full Commission regarding the proposed change before it took effect. Commissioners discussed possible solutions including moving the SGB meeting to a different day than the Commission meeting and overlapping the end of the SGB meeting and the beginning of the Commission meeting when they have shared topics. Interim Executive Assistant Sandi Mitchell noted per the CSBG act that the SGB meeting has to be run separately from the Commission meeting. Members of the SGB also noted the importance of dedicating a full hour to the SGB meeting in order to be in compliance.

The Commission requested that Alexandra Valdes, the new Executive Assistant research if it is possible for the SGB to utilize conference call lines and/or video conferencing platforms for their meetings.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Indigenous Peoples Day

Commissioner Dawn Jackson shared and discussed an “Indigenous Peoples Day at a Glance” document. The Commission discussed the 12-hour event including:

- Plans for volunteer.
- The event’s budget.
- Including students in the events.
- Participating on a panel discussing Cultural Markers and Decolonization and having Vice Chair Castro moderate the panel.
- Co-branding the event.



Homelessness

Commissioner Andrea Garcia update the Commission on possible dates for the September Forum on Homelessness. She shared that the event will likely be held at the California Endowment on September 10th, 13th or 25th. Depending on the budget they may be able to provide appetizers to participants but a full meal is unlikely. She asked the Commission to think about if they had connections to a space that would be willing to host an event for free on a Saturday. Commissioner Cheri Thomas said she would reach out to her supervisor and get back to Commissioner Garcia.

V. COLUMBUS STATUTE REMOVAL

The Commission discussed the removal of the Columbus Statue from Grand Park and next steps in the process. The Commission agreed that they should be the lead author of a letter going to the Board of Supervisors regarding their support for the removal of the statue and that the letter should be co-signed by the Human Relations Commission and the Art's Commission. Vice Chair Castro motioned to approve this motion and Chair Ortega seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Commission discussed educational opportunities surrounding the removal of the statue as well as discussed hosting a series of community dialogues regarding Decolonizing Public Spaces.

Additionally, the Commission discussed the need for developing a communications and media strategy regarding the removal that would include developing talking points and press releases and identifying a point person.

The Commission was in unanimous agreement that the removal should be something that is inclusive of the community and recognizes their right to celebrate this momentous occasion.

VI. NAIC TRUST FUND

Sandi Walker reported to the Commission that the NAIC Trust Fund had been established

VII. LA RIVER STEERING COMMITTEE

Chairman Ortega reported that he and Alexandra Valdes will be involved with the LA River Steering Committee in order to ensure that the perspectives of Los Angeles' American Indian and Alaska Native community are included.

VIII. DOI REORGANIZATION TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Chairman Ortega reported that he and Alexandra Valdes will be attending the Department of the Interior's Tribal Consultation session regarding the proposed reorganization of the DOI at Morongo on July 24th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

IX. AB 52

Chairman Ortega reported on the status of the AB 52 project. He shared that the Commission receives numerous notices and letters regarding developments and environmental impacts. He shared that it is important for the Commission to develop a way to respond to these letters and



or make the community aware of these letters. He noted that the Heritage Commission is looking to the NAIC to create a coalition with the local tribes and begin dialogues around this.

X. FOOTBALL CAMP

Commissioner Robert Judkins provided an update regarding the football camp project. The camp will be hosted at John Marshall High School and the Rams have agreed to participate. They are planning for 300 kids.

XI. COMMUNITY FORUMS

Chairman Ortega posed to the Commission whether they should continue to hold their reserved days at the Autry for August 4th and 11th. The Commission agreed that the days should be released.

XII. NATIONAL CONFERENCES OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Vice Chair Castro extended an invitation to the Commission to attend a meeting celebrating the Native Caucus on Sunday July 29th. She requested that the Commission extend the invitation their networks.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Community member Adam Loya inquired if it would be possible for the Commission to assist with parking for community members who attended meetings. Alexandra Valdes shared that she would research options and get an answer back to him as soon as possible.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting at 8:58 PM.