



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rudy Ortega Jr. at 7:08 PM.

2. PRAYER & WELCOME

Commissioner Randall Murphy opened the meeting with a prayer and welcoming.

3. ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were in attendance:

- Rudy Ortega Jr.
- Chrissie Castro
- Clementine Bordeaux
- Andrea Garcia
- Pat Lopez
- Randall Murphy
- Joseph Quintana
- Cheri Thomas
- Dawn Jackson
- Fred Leaf
- Paula Starr

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Tracy Perez
- Shawn Imitates-Dog



4. NEW COMMISSIONER: FRED LEAF

Newly appointed Commissioner Fred Leaf (Supervisor Barger) provided a brief biography including his career history with the County of Los Angeles and his Potawatomi heritage.

5. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

All Commissioners in attendance provided brief introductions to Commissioner Leaf.

6. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the July 17th, 2018 Commission Meeting and the minutes from the August 21st, Commission Meeting. Commissioner Paula Starr motioned to approve the July meeting minutes and Commissioner Randall Murphy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pat Lopez motioned to approve the August meeting minutes. Commissioner Cheri Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Indigenous Peoples Day (IPD)

It was shared with the Commission that parking for Indigenous Peoples Day will be made available to them as well as to panel speakers and moderators in P2 of the City Hall parking lot. Additionally, they will be given credentials to freely go in and out of City Hall and the other sections of the celebration. Commissioner Joseph Quintana shared that the 5k run had 200 committed participants.

Pow Wow

Commissioner Pat Lopez updated the Commission that the fees for Grand Park had been waived and that she would be sending out email requests to Commissioners to help secure day of volunteers.

Homelessness

Commissioner Andrea Garcia provide an updated on the September 25th *Community Forum on Native American Homelessness*. Commissioner Garcia shared the event flyer with the Commissioners. Additionally, she updated the Commission that she was able to secure a



\$5,000 grant for the event through CalMHSA. She shared that the Homelessness Subcommittee is planning either a follow-up forum, focus group or series of key informant interviews following the forum on September 25th.

8. ACTION ITEMS

Discuss and consider a motion regarding the creation of a Governance & Bylaws Subcommittee.

The Commission discussed the adoption of a Governance & Bylaws Subcommittee. Commissioner Randall Murphy moved to approve this motion and Commissioner Andrea Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Ortega Jr. requested membership in the Subcommittee. Commissioner Garcia, Vice Chair Chrissie Castro, Commissioner Fred Leaf and Commissioner Quintana volunteered to be members of the Subcommittee.

Discuss and consider a motion regarding the selection of Heritage Month honorees.

The Commission discussed a motion regarding selecting the following individuals as 2018 Heritage Month honorees: Glenda Ahaity, the Hale Family, Harold Freeland and Antoinette Hawk. Commissioner Lopez moved to approve this motion and Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Quintana asked the Commission to consider Omerleen Thompson as a future Heritage Month honoree for her over 35 years of service at United American Indian Involvement.

Discuss and consider a motion regarding providing a letter concerning the Santa Fe High School mascot.

The Commission discussed providing support for LA County resident Valerie Cabral's letter to her high school Santa Fe High School asking for the removal of the school's mascot the Chiefs. After discussion regarding mascots and related policies the Commission discussed the adoption of a motion to support Ms. Cabral's efforts with a letter to help expedite the process. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the motion. Chair Ortega seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



9. PRESENTATIONS

American Indian Freedom Act in Los Angeles City & County

Kimia Fatehi, the Chief of Staff for the Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indian presented to the Commission on behalf of the tribe. The Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians is seeking the Commission's assistance in establishing a policy that grant local tribes access to their homelands, now overseen by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation ("County Parks"), for cultural and religious purposes. Cultural and Religious use of the lands include, but are not limited to, gathering native plants, harvesting foods, and conducting private ceremonies.

The Commission discussed supporting the development of this policy. Commissioner Randall Murphy moved to approve the motion and Paula Starr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Center for Health Equity

Director Heather Jue Northover of the Center for Health Equity presented to the Commission on the CHE's Draft Action Plan. Director Northover discussed the creation of the CHE and the origins of the Draft Action Plan and its overarching goal of uplifting communities that have been marginalized. She presented general findings and strategies of the Draft Action Plan as well as specific data regarding the American Indian and Alaska Native population in Los Angeles County. She requested guidance from the Commission regarding outreach to the Native community.

The Commission agreed to share the information on the Commission website as well as to continue conversations between CHE and the Commission regarding how they can support each other's work.

Compose LA

The City of Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs Director of Performing Arts Benjamin Johnson presented to the Commission on partnering to produce a component of a new arts initiative Compose LA.



Johnson shared that Compose LA aims to challenge what the word compose means by providing platforms for diverse music makers. Compose LA 2019 is the City of LA's inaugural platform to showcase LA's leading contemporary music spaces, innovate musical artist/composers and thought-leaders from California.

As a collaboration between the American Composers Forums of California, University of California Humanities Research Institute – UC Irvine, UCLA Center for Music Innovation, and the Red Bull Music Academy, is proposed to span two weeks of time in mid-February 2019. The artist roster will be finalized in September 2018. The Humanities roster will be confirmed by October 2018. The fully project will be announced in January.

Each concert will also include a humanities element provided by the Humanities Research Institute - UC Irvine. Each concert will be paired with one of the leading thought leaders in humanities research, paring both the ideas in the music with the ideas in the greater humanities field.

The first edition of this festival will also have a theme: What is Human, and What is Race?

The Commission discussed participating in this project and having Executive Assistant Alexandra Valdes manage the project. Commissioner Paula Starr moved to approve the motion and Pat Lopez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Response to Family Separation along the Border

Chair Ortega Jr. requested this item be moved to next meeting when a decided upon course of action is presented.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Community Member Kathy Yellowtail shared with the Commission about a nearly decades long struggle she has had with the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and DCFS's American Indian Unit. She shared personal testimony sharing the negative



impacts that the lack of American Indian and Alaska Native social workers in Los Angeles County has had on her and her family. She requested the help of the Commission in assisting her finding a resolution with DCFS including facilitating a meeting with decision makers in DCFS. Commissioner Leaf committed to helping facilitate a meeting between Kathy and the head of DCFS. Chair Ortega Jr. shared that Executive Assistant Alexandra Valdes will begin attending Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Roundtable meetings in October.

12. ADJORNMENT

Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM.