



Topic: Monthly Meeting
Date/Time: August 21, 2020
Location: Zoom
Contact: Terry Sloan, Liaison

Commission Members Present

Rebecca Riley (Chair)
Maggie George
Brittany Schulman (Vice Chair)
Lloyd Lee
Denise Zuni
Thelma Antonio (Secretary)
Kimberly Gleason

Commission Members Absent

Kyle Tapaha
Jacqueline Platero
Alicia Ortega

City Staff Present

Terry Sloan (Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison)
Dawn Begay

Minutes

1. Call to Order.

- a. The meeting was called to order at 8:19 by Chair, Riley and provided the invocation. Roll call was called with K. Gleason joining at 8:28.

2. Approval of meeting agenda.

- a. Member M. George moved to approve the agenda and member, B. Schulman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of meeting minutes.

- a. Chair, R. Riley mentioned the time of adjournment of the last meeting was not included.
- b. D. Zuni stated she logged in at 9:25. Clarification that George nominated Thelma Antonio for Secretary position.
- c. George moved to approve July 3, 2020 meeting minutes with corrections, and member Schulman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- d. The Secretary will send meeting minutes to everyone for review. After approval, the final version will be sent to the Liaison Sloan.
- e. Lee mentioned the June 26, 2020 meeting minutes were not approved yet. Liaison noted that the minutes were not finalized by D. Begay.

4. Old Business.

I. Discussion on Strategic Planning Action Subcommittee.

- a. Subcommittee consist of the following members: R. Riley; T. Antonio; B. Schulman; and K. Gleason.
- b. Marvis Aragon and Juanita will update and provide a summary of the strategic plan to the committee. There were two meetings with commission members before COVID-19 impacted the activity to finalize the plan. A vision and mission statement will also be drafted by the subcommittee. Due to the short time frame in receiving the documents they will be made available for the next meeting.
- c. D. Zuni recommends that alignment of the vision and mission to the ordinance should be applied with M. George in agreement.

II. Discussion on Communication and Outreach Strategies:

- a. The subcommittee to recruit other members to the commission has not met yet.
 - b. M. George, A. Ortega, and Chair R. Riley are on the subcommittee.
 - c. Recruitments have been made by the director and members; applications have been submitted but no response has been made or applications have not been processed. A follow up on the process is suggested. An inquiry was also made regarding representatives from Sandia and Santa Ana, which the director reached out to tribal leaders for appointments. Follow up information on the criteria followed and decision-making process as to on who is the best fit for the positions are made. The director stated the Mayor's office makes the decision from applications it receives. It was also suggested it would be a good idea to look at other vacancies in other committees/commissions and encourage others to apply for those positions. Social media would be a good platform to use to get the word out that vacancies are open, and it can also be used for job openings, scholarships, and services provided in the city, including a platform for youth involvement, the Albuquerque Indian Center, National Indian Youth Council, and First Nations, as examples. Native Leadership Collective has developed a guide.
 - d. The commission should invite leadership of organizations to provide services or information they offer.
 - e. A Social media account was set up under city requirements. Other forms of media will be considered for varies population of users, such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, etc.
 - f. The office of Equity and Inclusion is to create a position for multimedia and the commission can use their services.
- III. Commissioner Search Subcommittee (workforce/employment/environmental/cultural)
- a. Subcommittee members are M. George, R. Riley, and A. Ortega.
 - b. Cultural position definition should address Native Culture, history, aspect of culture, and consultation; it is a broad definition and the commission could further determine what the make-up of the commission would look like. Another member explained when the commission was created that determining the sectors and positions would be a commission member effort to build a comprehensive structure. Laurie Weahkee may have provided written input as to the development of the commission. Can commission make recommendations and inquiry on placing members in a different capacity was supported, but caution is also raised, due to the size of the commission, and making changes at this time.
 - c. Commission chair would like to set up a meeting with subcommittee members; Director to send list of commissions, committees, and boards within the city.
- IV. City of Albuquerque Race, History and Healing Project (RHHP)
- a. Convening meetings are taken place and others being scheduled. A link will be sent for the public website.
 - b. Recommendation to suggest diverse people should be in attendance to have diverse discussion and different perspectives among attendants. The sessions are kept small to develop deeper meaning amongst attendants, but can be challenging, and the outcome will develop into a report.
 - c. Groups can decide when to meet for the next session, depending on everyone's availability.
- 5. New Business.**
- I. NM Civil Guard actions targeting Native community members

- a. It was suggested that when new issues are to be presented, information, material, or link to the issue should be sent to all members to review.
- b. Member L. Lee explained the topic that A. Ortega had recommended: Nick Estes and Melanie Yazzie of Red Nation (RN), an organization that protested the NM Civil Guard being involved with gatherings and was to show up at their place of residence as a reactive protest. NM leader of Civil Guard left the state and was believed to be part of the KKK (Klu Klux Klan). The director was invited to attend but was advised by the city not to attend. ACLU and APD was involved to monitor the situation.
- c. The overall concern regarding All Indian Pueblo Council of Governors (APCG) and the tribes is that actions of organizations such as Red Nation or Pueblo Action Alliance creating racism issues against tribal members working (and living) in the city may be a threat due to retaliatory responses toward the Civil Guard that perpetuates conflict. It was perceived that by requesting RN's audience is to discuss backing down from further activity to de-escalate the situation. APCG has made a statement and has discussed the concerns knowing Albuquerque has received unfavorable National attention and the potential violence it creates.
- d. It was recommended to invite leaders of the RN about their work and intentions for the city. The director was advised it was alright for the commission to contact other organizations to seek information and perspective. The founders of the group had their beginnings at UNM as students, left NM, returned and are currently educators (employees) at UNM. It was suggested that commission members become better informed about the group by reading articles, websites, including podcasts and KNME In Focus interviews on PBS.
- e. It was also learned that the NM Civil Guard was eliminated from Facebook and the group had received a cease order from the state; it was also mentioned that it was against the law to attack anyone at their place of residence.
- f. The topic will be placed on the September agenda.

II. Discussion on To'Hajiilee Navajo Chapter Water issue

- a. The director provided a brief history of the community's water problem over many years. The water project has been in the works for years to connect to the city of Albuquerque, but one land holder has refused to work with To'Hajiilee. Congressional and NM legislative members have supported the issue and negotiations are currently happening. The Navajo Nation is supporting the project with funding.
- b. The commission supports the issue and a letter will be drafted. There is currently a petition on behalf of the Navajo Nation.
- c. Motion made by L. Lee, to write a letter of support for To'Hajiilee to have access to water from the city; Thelma seconds the motion. None opposed, motion is approved to submit a letter of support to the city.

6. Public Comment.

- a. D. Begay provided a link to the city resource guide for organization that were awarded COVID funding;
- b. Community Safety department has created facilitated discussions, 1 two-hour sessions. A session for the commission can be arranged if not all commissions can attend a session. A survey is also available for further input which impacts emergency response to the Native communities. The survey is encouraged to be shared with networks, as many people and organizations as possible. The survey is open through the end of September and can be put on list serves.

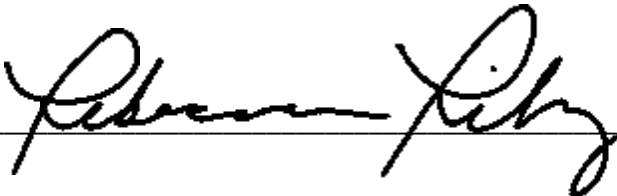
- c. Recognition to D. Begay having been appointed to the Governor's Council on the Racial Justice committee.

7. Topics for next meeting.

- a. Suggest update on subcommittee of the Native American Homelessness issue; the commission has not had a response from commission member Kyle Tapaha for a period of time; more attempts will be made;
- b. Subcommittee for an Environmental committee; Director inquired if an environmental subcommittee has been created and that a representative should be put in place soon; this is in response to the Green Amendments (the director is on the Green Amendments for the Generations board) for a constitutional change in preparation for next year's legislature to review and have state residents vote for clean air and water as having a right as citizens in the state constitution;
- c. Member L. Lee mentioned the letter from the Mayor recommending a meeting with the commission and the Human Rights board, the Cultural Affairs board, the Family and Community Services board, the Senior Affairs, and the Parks and Economic Development Board; Chair R. Riley will follow up in scheduling meetings;
- d. Member B. Schulman requested and invite to the leadership of the Albuquerque Indian Center and to Dr. Daisy Thompson regarding updates for students and support they may need;
- e. M. Aragon is to provide an update on the Strategic Planning activity;
- f. Commission meetings to be set on every third Friday, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.; all members agreed;
- g. Next commission meeting will be on Friday, September 18, 2020 starting at 8:00 am.

8. Adjournment.

- a. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. by Chair, R. Riley.

Commission Chair:  Date: 9/18/20