



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Topic: Monthly Meeting

Date/Time: April 16, 2021 at 8:00 am

Location: Zoom

Contact: Terry Sloan, Liaison

MEMBERS

Dr. Lloyd Lee
Denise Zuni
Jimmy Secatero
Dr. Maggie George
Kimberly Gleason
Lorenzo Jim

Rebecca Riley (Chair)
Brittany Schulman (Vice Chair)
Thelma Antonio (Secretary)
Kyle Tapaha
Kim Benally

Minutes

- 1. Call to Order by Rebecca Riley, Chair. Roll call and invocation. Kim Gleason and Kyle Tapaha were not present.
2. Approval of meeting agenda. Motion to approve meeting agenda was made by M. George; seconded by J. Secatero; none opposed; K. Benally abstained (not responding); agenda is approved.
3. Approval of meeting minutes for March 19, 2021
- Motion to approve February 19, 2021 minutes was made by M. George; seconded by L. Lee; none opposed; K. Benally abstained (not responding); minutes are approved.
- Minutes for March 19, 2021 will be posted on website.
a) Guest Presentation: Ahtza Chavez, Executive Director of Native American Voters Alliance—Education Project

Ahtza Dawn Chavez is Executive Director of NAVA-Education Project (a C3 status specifically for advocacy) and NM Native Vote (a C4 status for election activity), including a PAC (political action committee) which is the Native Advocacy fund. The C3 side focuses in civic engagement and currently works in the Dine' Energy and infrastructure. C3 side also provides friendly messaging for the get out to vote campaign and well as educating the public about voting and registering. It partners with other organizations to work on the census project.

Infrastructure has been raising issue with and advocates for communities such as the To'Hajiilee community for a waterline extension connection to Albuquerque. NAVA uses social media channels, websites, and messaging to raise awareness and provide information to tribal and urban Indian communities. At the legislation session House Bill 231 was introduced for Native American polling place protection sites, which maintains polling stations, including emergency polling access for To'Hajiilee and Isleta Pueblo was passed and signed. The organization also advocated for Senate Bill 112 which was passed and would create a commission for the just transition for renewable energy access. There are eight tribal membership spots to fulfill for a subcommittee taskforce. Senate Bill 84 Community Solar

Act for tribal investment into solar projects and provides a structure for going forward. Senate Bill 304 is a voting geographic redistricting bill. A tribal redistricting coalition will be formed. Informational webinars will be scheduled to educate the public of the bills that were passed. Information on these groups can be accessed from the NAVA-Education Project and the NM Vote websites.

NAVA-EP is partnering with SFIS for a free training project to increase network administrators and train tribal members in the installation process. It also will continue to work with infrastructure broadband projects. It set up 50 hub sites in NM due to COVID.

Ahtza has provided contact information and that if advocacy is needed to contact her.

*b) Guest Presentation: **Alicia Ortega**, Native Women Lead*

Eight co-founders started NWL in 2017 to support one another and other native women. It addressed an unmet need for women to start their businesses with culture and empowerment. First convening in 2018 was initiated to gather over 200 women as in informational and support system which was a success. Native women business owners primarily were the guest speakers. There is a 2020 Impact Report. A second convening was held in 2019 in Isleta with over 300 women in attendance. A native women business coalition was formed.

Impacts of COVID hit and a virtual conference was held. A survey was conducted with over 100 entrepreneurs coming from 50 tribal nations. NWL provided self-care through virtual sessions and provided care packages. It also introduced a Matriarch Response Loan Fund to assist women struggling in their businesses. It provided a pivoting plan for entrepreneurs to sell products on line, as well as lending \$150,000 and a 50% loan forgiveness with 0 percent interest, resulting in a zero-default rate, establishing women businesses are investable.

NWL created a Circle of Support program that helped women businesses with wrap around support in design support, website support, software subscriptions, equipment support, one on one consultations, and marketing education. A Closing the Women's Wealth Gap initiative was created on a policy format for systematic change regarding social justice, pay equity, safety, gender justice and climate justice. It supported the get-out-the-vote and census activities. Native Women's Equal Pay Day was a one-day event with awareness in negotiation in payday equity. Community investment totaled \$466,000 (93%) that went back into the native community.

While NWL is still structuring the organization and working on the 501 (C3) status it applied for a competition for a \$40 Million dollar granting opportunity. NWL made the top ten of applicants and at minimum will receive at least \$1 Million. NWL is the only native organization that has applied.

CAIANA asked for flyers and promotional information to share on its website as well as share with other organizations, including the United Nation organization Terry is in contact with.

*c) CABQ Updates: **Dawn Begay**, CABQ Native American Affairs Liaison **Terry Sloan**, CABQ Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison*

Dawn Begay

Dawn reported:

- rental and utility assistance is available for a 15-month period for renters, homeowners, and the homeless who qualify below 80% below median income and due to impact of COVID. People

needing assistance should contact RentHelpNM.org which will be available until September 30th;

- the native community can contact First Nations Pathway program for education outreach and application assistance;
- resolution 20-75 provides improving equity and city policy process and program and service delivery with a racial impact assessment; and training is on-going through cultural change initiative; April is fair housing month; OEI office hosting a justice learning session; and a reading circle focusing in colorism; there is a 2020 progress report available;
- racial impact assessment developed a tool and identified department liaisons to apply to their department;
- a wealth building strategy for native nations was created through a \$75,000 grant the city received to address homeownership and entrepreneurship;
- the new gateway center at the old Lovelace hospital was contacted to be included in any upcoming meeting to inquire how the native American community can be served;
- a food sustainability and agriculture workgroup are designed to identify local institutions and connecting farmers for produce within the city;
- domestic violence task force submitted final recommendations to the mayor and implementing them with staff and budget requirements with assessment and gap analysis; and
- data information the commission requested will be worked on by the intern as soon as she finishes her educational commitments.

Dawn answered questions pertaining to the following:

- Colorism is how we view dark and lighter skin and how race is perceived. It isn't a matter of identity it is a notion of the color of skin on how you are treated. The term is called "street race;"
- Agriculture program is design for the Albuquerque area and possibly the pueblo and local farmers would be included. A community assessment would identify local farms and businesses; (Commissioner Zuni suggested that Pueblo farmers can offer valuable teaching and products.)
- Healthy Native Youth conference April 26 – 29th is a virtual conference for youth to come together and engage in healthy activities focuses in mental, cultural, and social topics;

Mr. Terry Sloan

Terry has worked on the following items:

- developed a land acknowledgment tool kit for a policy to be developed by each city department;
- accessing a feasibility of a housing program services and resources focusing in various housing initiatives such as low-income housing, homebuyer assistance program, home construction program, and transitional housing to close the wealth gap for native people;
- working on a tribal relations policy for the mayor and city departments to build a nation to nation relationship and train workers on a cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity training; drafted a tribal consultation policy and has been submitted to the Mayor office;
- attended multiple federal tribal consultation sessions;
- drafted a tribal consultation ordinance for the city which is under review; advised Mayor that he was working on certain articles to be recognized in city policy;
- concerned on current drought issue and sent concerns to the city;
- the CD-1 election is forthcoming and working to support Melanie Stansbury;
- will attend the united nations forum focuses on Indigenous Peoples Rights and environmental justice rights.

Terry answered the following questions regarding drought and irrigation water:

- there is a plan in place for drought occurrences in the city;

- the environmental department contacted Terry wanting to contact Isleta about the water quality standards;
- there is issue with the Colorado River district;
- Commissioner Antonio explained briefly regarding the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy district and allocation to water users through the valley and that the state does have a water plan;

Commissioner Zuni commented on the one-stop-shop housing plan comparing to tribes that provide housing information to tribal members. There are native CDFI (community development funding institutions) lenders such as in Laguna and Isleta that provide mortgage lending. Isleta provides mortgage lending in Isleta and for purchasing housing in Albuquerque. She suggested a place for an office should be at the Cultural Center or the BIA building.

Terry will be researching local housing authorities for information and target areas of preference for housing for native people. A group will be hired to provided data services.

Commissioner Lee shared in the chat of a brown paper that UNM had developed and there is a land acknowledgment committee that updates the statement. There are also branch campuses with the state, Gallup, Valencia, and Taos, plus the fact that there are many Indigenous people that refer to Albuquerque as home. The land acknowledgement committee is creating a map for the city, state, and region. He also requests that the tribal consultation process be shared for review. He asked if the gateway center is in the process of implementation. There is a move to open the center but there is no definite start date. Dawn and Isiah are working on getting involved and seeking inclusion for native homeless people.

Commissioner George suggests that members who represent their tribal communities should be included to address direct impact and information. Terry stated there will be consultation with the five tribes on the commission and will share with all the tribes in the state for review. There will be a final consultation with the tribes before it is submitted to the city.

d) Public Comment

No public comments were received.

e) Discussion and Approval on New Action Items or announcements

Commissioner Lee attended a three-hour APS tribal consultation meeting providing tribal leaders, education departments and directors; there was discussion on the homeless student status, stating there are 383 students with tribal affiliation unknown; as of March 17, 2021, the data is 6,502 native American students with 668 with no tribal affiliation and comprising of 92 recognized tribes. The UNM Institute of American Indian Education will be hosting and Indigenous Education conference. An opening will be titled a perspective of “Navajo adult prisoners on their educational experience and examination of the school to the prison pipeline.” There will be three sessions.

Chair Riley will be reaching out to the All Pueblo Council of Governors for to appoint a member to the commission. Well wishes and acknowledgment of service were presented to Alicia Ortega.

4. Old Business
Commission Sector and Sub-Committee Updates

a. Media Communications (Chair R. Riley, M. George, and K. Gleason)

The website has been structured and is still a work in progress and had to meet the criteria from the city. An intern will be selected to monitor the website. A social media calendar will be included. A press release will be drafted. (The webpage was reviewed, and navigation includes the strategic plan, archived history, and request for photos that represent tribal communities.)

Commissioner Zuni suggests using spaces to place important notices or information and that the tribal representative could post information or resources from respective tribes.

Commissioner Lee notices areas that should be changed on the website. Chair Riley also informed him that his title was placed in error and that he does present the Education Sector.

b. Commissioner Search (Chair R. Riley, M. George, and A. Ortega)

The commission received three applications for the Environmental sector; the applications were reviewed, and one application was selected. The request was sent to Helen Maestas and waiting for confirmation.

Data Subcommittee (B. Schulman, K. Benally, and T. Antonio)

The subcommittee requested data request from Native American Affairs and the Indian Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner George asked of the status of membership and terms. Chair Riley provided information that was discussed at the last meeting and no further work is needed due to new members coming on board and tribal representatives with specific terms created staggered status. Commissioner Schulman provided further explained and confirmed that staggered terms developed organically.

Commissioner Lee offered that a campaign be created to solicit new board members.

c. Next meeting agenda

Native Health Initiative was listed as a possible presenter for the next meeting. Commissioner George suggested an update on the tiny homes project at the Indian Center, voting information for the upcoming election, and housing information that Commissioner Zuni presented.

5. Adjournment at 10:30 am

Commission Chair:  Date: 5/21/21