



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

COMMISSION ON AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

Topic: Monthly Meeting

Date/Time: May 21, 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. Maggie George, Denise Zuni, Brittney Schulman, Kim Benally, and Jimmy Secatero were absent.
2. Approval of meeting agenda. Motion to approve meeting agenda was made by Thelma Antonio; seconded by Lloyd Lee; none opposed; agenda is approved.
3. Approval of meeting minutes for April 16, 2021 Motion to approve April 16, 2021 minutes was made by Lloyd Lee; seconded by Kim Gleason; none opposed; Kyle Tapaha abstained (was not present at April 16 meeting); minutes are approved.
4. New Business

a) Guest Presentation: Iisle Biel, of the Tiny Home Village (Indian Center location)

Iisle Biel provided a tour of the Tiny Home Village located in the Albuquerque Indian Center (AIC) location. It is a pilot project, first in NM, but not the country. The county funds and is spearheading the project; no HUD funding is received but funded by the county. People can stay as long as needed to transition to other housing. Albuquerque Indian Center offered the site. It has an operational agreement by county and AIC creating a partnership. This model is to work with people to gain sustainability; a community building aspect. It opened in February with its growth incrementally with four villagers moving in. Villagers must be screened by an application process and approved by other village members. Occupant capacity is capped at 40 with 30 units with 120 square feet containing a bedroom and living area and a small porch. The shared living area contains outdoor shading and seating with a community garden.

People are often referred by agencies through a coordinated entry system and are nominated from community self-referrals. The village is planned for diversity living and welcome Native Americans. The goal is to house people who do not have a stable living environment. The program is not meant to be an alternative living situation. The program will only accept individuals over 18 years of age, must be sober, must adapt to communal living, and only single or couples are allowed to apply. Residents must provide 10 hours of community work per week. It is a self-governed residential community. No illegal substances or use is allowed, including guns. It contains 40 units with up to 10 couples are allowed. There are no overnight guests allowed.

There is an application process and criteria in place. 103 applications have been received. Villagers are invited to interviews and participate in the approval of new occupants. Background checks are also conducted. Native Americans have applied but none have been accepted. The process is still in the refinement stage. The process is for incremental growth versus filling all the units. A micro industry is planned for the future. Relationship building with agencies is also the goal.

Questions/Comments

Commissioner Lee asked about the occupancy rate and outreach, especially when no Native Americans are housed. The forty units have not been filled. As the growth continues the space and living areas can be improved and redesigned. Ms. Biel stated the information is sent to agencies that deals with Native Americans. She also relayed that toxicology reports often weigh against an occupant (referring to all applicants).

Terry asked about the demographic statistics and why people do not seek housing. Ms. Biel stated applicants do not indicate tribal affiliation or complete the application. She has worked with Santo Domingo about the Tiny House Program. Some people have lived in encampment groups.

Terry further explained the goal and plans for developing an urban housing development and program for Native Americans.

City of Albuquerque Updates

b) CABQ Updates: **Isiah Curtis**, *CABQ Native American Affairs Liaison* and **Terry Sloan**, *CABQ Intergovernmental Tribal Liaison*

Isiah Curtis

Isiah reports:

- First Nations vaccinations and COVID testing going well. Statistics of the number of Native Americans that have been vaccinated are unknown.
- City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County is still offering rental assistance. Isolation hotels have been shut down. A meeting with family community services is planned and recommendations and information will be provided, especially for cultural place/space for Native American use. 60% of Native Americans are not using shelters or city services according to 2019 census information. They are working with the coalitional of homelessness in preparation of a memo the city regarding the new Gateway Center for homeless people. The Gateway Center is searching for a deputy director for the center.
- There was a meeting with the City of Albuquerque Police Department Ambassador (APD) Program and met the Native American liaison. Dawn and Isiah plan to do outreach and work with the southeast command center which includes the subjects of human trafficking and missing and murdered indigenous women.

Mr. Terry Sloan

Terry reports the following items:

- APD will provide a presentation of the Ambassadors Program. It is designed to create more community outreach and input regarding policing issues of safety and want to work with the Native American community.
- Working with Native American housing plan on three levels; create a complex for transitional housing; homebuyer program for eligible urban Indian populations; scoping the railyard site with a set-aside plan of 40 units for a housing complex; and identifying groups to work with in the building industry such as contractors, electricians, plumbers focusing on Native American groups; while seeking funding through, state, federal, and private funding sources;
- Working with Native Leaders Collective to look into an indigenous cultural center; Laura Harris, Director reaching out for project partners and Terry is directing the project;
- Attended the United Nations virtual session focusing on a peace, justice and strong institutions; he will forward information in our region;
- Healthy Youth virtual conference went well and may conduct a quarterly session to promote more youth participation and requesting ideas for youth participation possibly adding art and film programming; and
- Working on the land acknowledgment project with an upcoming meeting to prepare for the Mayor's office.

Commissioner Gleason offers to assist by her company Two Worlds in training with art, theatre, and film for youth. It is also is creating a youth program. Terry relays that the All Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is hosting a virtual film event sponsored by the city. Kim will be working in an executive position in the film industry.

Commissioner Tapaha offers to assist in the land acknowledgment project. Terry emphasizes that promotion to expose Native Americans to positions within the city. He would like to host a United Nations event in Albuquerque early next year which has much interest.

c) Public Comment

No public comments were received.

d) Discussion and Approval on New Action Items or announcements

There may be an issue with the lack of Native Americans not applying for the tiny homes program. It is believed natives are not explicitly homeless; they have a home but choose to leave and venture to the city. More information will be needed. Possibly through a town hall we will be able to find out about barriers or lack of outreach, especially when the statistic of 60% of Native Americans are not seeking assistance with housing. Commissioner Tapaha would like to seek information about this type of transition service and provide outreach to veterans and homeless natives. He has volunteered to spearhead an outreach survey. Other commissioners are interested in assisting commissioner Tapaha gather information and talk to people. Deidre had an idea of talking to people on buses as she is frequently asked for assistance from other native people and would like to help. Commissioner Gleason suggested to reach out to the UNM Native Alumni Association and attend an upcoming meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Commission Sector and Sub-Committee Updates

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

The website and social media sites are live and running. Any announcements, posts, or shared resource information and links send them to CAIANA staff or Commissioner Gleason. A two-week advance notice for upcoming events is sufficient time to place on the website. Terry has created a draft of a social media policy. Deidre can also provide daily news clip updates.

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

Applications for new members were reviewed and sent to Helen Maestas. One selection was made.

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

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

b. Commission Strategic Plan Actions and Updates

No updates, but it is a good idea to revisit the plan to identify progress and self-monitor. The townhall is a good idea to provide information and gather input.

c. Next meeting agenda

It is possible to have an in-person meeting. Terry was giving information that a space at the SIPI (Southwestern Polytechnic Institute) is offered for use that includes an outdoor space.

Next meeting is June 18th at 6:00 p.m. (an evening meeting).

Native American Parent Resources (NAPR) is scheduled to present. The Albuquerque Police Department Ambassador program is also scheduled to present. It was suggested to Commissioner Tapaha that he could create a subcommittee for the project he will work on.

6. Adjournment at 10:30 am

Commission Chair:

Rebecca Riley Date: 6/18/21