



**LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 21, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rudy Ortega at 7:40 PM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

The following Commissioners were in attendance:

- Rudy Ortega Jr.
- Chrissie Castro
- Shawn Imitates-Dog
- Tracy Perez
- Clementine Bordeaux
- Andrea Garcia
- Pat Lopez
- Randall Murphy
- Joseph Quintana
- Cheri Thomas

The following Commissioners were absent:

- Dawn Jackson
- Robert Judkins
- Paula Starr

**3. REVIEW/APPROVAL MINUTES**

The July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Commission meeting minutes were not reviewed. They will be reviewed for approval during the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Commission meeting.

**4. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Homelessness**

Commissioner Andrea Garcia provided an update on the September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Community Forum on Native American Homelessness. She obtained a DMH grant for \$4,000.00 for the



event. The Forum will feature a variety of speakers including Colleen Echohawk from Seattle's Chief Seattle Club. Community members will provide notetaking at the Forum as well as assist with the analysis of the findings and reporting. The main objectives of the event are to better understand the current methodology utilized in the point in time homelessness count and to understand the unique needs of the population and the resources currently available. All documents for the Homelessness Forum project are available for the Commissioners on the Commission DropBox.

### **Pow Wow**

Commissioner Pat Lopez provided an update on 2018 Pow Wow budget. She shared that she would be making a request on behalf of the Commission to Supervisor Janice Hahn's office. Chairman Rudy Ortega Jr. suggested being strategic about the request and including any other requests of the Commission through the end of the calendar year.

## **5. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**

David Giron, Dave Cano and William Ayala from Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell provided a project update on the Indigenous Peoples Celebration on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Grand Park and City Hall. They provided updates on fundraising, outreach, programming and logistics for the day and the media strategy. The Commission voiced concerned regarding the language of the fundraising letter particularly the fundraising levels and the usage of tribal healer and tribal leader. Additionally, the Commission provided feedback regarding the lack of community involvement in the programming of the event as well as the Councilmember's Office disregarding suggestions made by Steering Committee Members. The Councilmember's staff acknowledged the Commissions input and committed to addressing their concerns going forward.

## **6. ELECTION SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Commission discussed the adoption of an Elections Subcommittee to oversee the 2018 Community Elections. Commissioner Randall Murphy motioned to approve this motion and Commissioner Cheri Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Ortega Jr. requested membership in the Subcommittee. Commissioner Thomas, Commissioner Lopez and Commissioner Clementine Bordeaux volunteered to be members of the Subcommittee.



## **7. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Commission discussed the adoption of a Communications Subcommittee. Commissioner Randall Murphy motioned to approve this motion and Commissioner Cheri Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Ortega Jr. requested membership in the Subcommittee. Commissioner Joseph Quintana and Commissioner Bordeaux volunteered to be members of the Subcommittee. The Commission agreed that Commissioner Dawn Jackson should be a member of the subcommittee because of her experience.

## **8. HERITAGE MONTH HONOREES**

The Commission discussed possible 2018 Heritage Month Honorees. Decisions will be made regarding the Honorees at the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Commission meeting. Additionally, the Commission discussed possibly including the Honorees in the Pow Wow since this year's Heritage Month celebrations will be reduced because of the Inaugural Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration.

The following individuals and families were suggested:

- Glenda Ahhaitty
- Antoinette Hawk
- Andy Jones
- Harold Freeland
- Omerlene Thompson
- Hale Family

## **9. SHARED SOFTWARE PLATFORMS**

The Commission discussed adopting Office 365 & Asana or DropBox, Google Calendar & Asana for Commission business. The Commission agreed to have Executive Assistant Alexandra Valdes setup both options and have the Commission use them on a trial basis and then make a determination on what they would like to use long-term.



## **10. COLUMBUS STATUE REMOVAL & COMMUNITY DIALOGUES**

Vice Chairperson Chrissie Castro provided a project update on the removal of the Columbus statue from Grand Park and the Decolonizing and Indigenizing Public Spaces community dialogue series. Vice Chairperson Castro reiterated the Commission's position on the removal of the statue as well as the criteria the Commission determined was necessary to consider when determining a new location for the statue including ensuring the new location would not celebrate the statue in any way. She shared with the Commission that on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Los Angeles Arts Commission Civic Arts Subcommittee voted to permanently loan the statue to St. Peter's Catholic Church in Los Angeles and that the full Arts Commission supported this motion in late June.

The Commission discussed the adoption of a motion rejecting the Arts Commission motion to relocate the Columbus Statue to St. Peter's Catholic Church. Randall Murphy motioned to approve this motion and Chairman Ortega seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairperson Castro shared details about the 3 part Decolonizing and Indigenizing Public Spaces Dialogue Series. The first dialogue in the series will take place at Self Help Graphics & Arts on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 7:00 to 8:30. The second dialogue will be held at the Autry and the third will likely be held at Grand Park.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was made.

## **12. ADJORNMENT**

Chair Ortega adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.