



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chrissie Castro called meeting to order at 7:01 PM

Commissioner Lopez provided the opening blessing

2. ROLL CALL

The following Commissioners were in attendance:

- Chrissie Castro (Chair)
- Tracy Perez (Vice Chair)
- Ted Tenorio
- Andrea Garcia
- Cheri Thomas
- Clementine Bordeaux
- Joseph Quintana
- Pat Lopez

3. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

After review of the August 20, 2019 meeting minutes, it was moved and seconded to approve. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.1 Executive Committee – There was a brief discussion regarding a letter of commendation for UCLA's American Indian Studies Center's 50th anniversary celebration.

4.2 Self-Governance Board – This item was tabled.

Added Discussion Item – Homelessness Community Forum is scheduled for Oct 1, 2019 from 4pm until 5:30pm. A flyer will be sent out with details.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Deaccessioning of Columbus Statue/Community Arts Programming – Representatives from the Los Angeles County Arts and Culture Department discussed how the commission would like to handle disposing of the statue of Columbus. The Arts Department has renewed the storage contract for another year, however, they would like to work on the agreement as to how the statue will be disposed. The process will include appraising its value. Discussion also included whether the statue shall be destroyed or given to a private or public entity. A letter (See Hand out #1 and #2) draft was presented outlining possible language that would map the



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deaccessioning process. The letter and the resulting conversation highlighted how the statue shall be used and any action shall include tribal consultation. Also discussed was a suggestion there should be a timeline of the process and, perhaps, community input should be considered to determine proper action.

Tribal Consultation policy - spell out what that policy might be.

Commissioner Bordeaux moved that a policy should be created and it was seconded by Chair Castro. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 6.1 UCLA Human Rights Legal Clinic Students – Joe Berra, Clinical Project Director, UCLA School of Law introduced the letter that outlined the Collaboration Proposal regarding issues on Housing/Homelessness and Education. Additionally he introduced the students who will be assisting on the project this semester. One of the students presented an outline of the project which included research into human rights and analysis.
- 6.2 California Indian Heritage Center Workshop: November 2, 2019 – The workshop is scheduled to be held Saturday, Nov. 2nd from 11 until 3pm. The discussion identified UCLA as a partner in the effort and the need for a location for the workshop. The Autry Museum was suggested as a possible location.
- 6.3 Indigenous Peoples Day – David Giron, (Senior Advisor to Councilmember O'Farrell, 13th Council District) returned with an event update. He recapped the talent line-up, the cost to the city (\$160K), the number of booths (30), and the desire for all commissioners to attend. Commissioner Garcia restated her desire to focus on the messaging for the day. The use of 1 to 2 minute videos highlighting the messaging of the event, the work of the Commission and the various organizations. Mr. Giron stated he will come back to the Commission for input. Additionally, it was noted that no proclamation or scroll is needed from the Board.
- 6.4 Powwow – Commissioner Lopez stated the event cost of \$4K was covered by Council District 8, the Board of Supervisors are covering parking and “hard costs”, the arts and crafts and food vendors list is full and a sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers for the event.
- 6.5 Heritage Month – Heritage month will take place in November. A budget of \$12K was mentioned with \$3K budgeted for the booklet. Food will be provided. Assembly member James Ramos will be included as an honoree and the Commission will announce all other honorees. The funds for the NAHM banner has already been decided and approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT – Although not listed on the agenda the following announcements are provided:

Victor Ramirez announced a rise in Native American Indian suicide by 33% since 1999.

Tom Grody mentioned public reading of Executive Order

Friedel Kushman spoke on homelessness and the need to create a statement against the implementation of federal homeless camps and have the Commission sign on to the letter.

8. COMMISSION ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Chrissie Castro adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM.