



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024

The February 20, 2024, meeting Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) was at County of Los Angeles Hall of Administration, Sybil Brand Room 372, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.

Call to Order

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Invocation & Land Acknowledgement

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor provided an invocation.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog read the County of Los Angeles Land Acknowledgement.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Caroline Bhalla
Chrissie Castro (Virtual; Just Cause)
Andrea Garcia
John Only A Chief
Dawn Jackson
Mark Villasenor
Rene' Williams

Absent: Secretary Audra Wise (Unexcused)
Mona Morales Recalde (Excused)
Rudy Ortega Jr. (Excused)
Ted Tenorio (Unexcused)
Rich Toyon (Excused)

Staff: Heather Rigby, Department of Arts and Culture Chief Deputy
Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director (Virtual)
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager

Members of Public: Cesar Aranguri, Chuy Flores (Department of Public Health), Cynthia Ruiz, Megan Moret (Department of Arts and Culture) and Josh Candelaria

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions



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Commissioners provided brief introductions including their names, appointing office, and tribal affiliation.

Welcome New Commissioner Caroline Bhalla (Supervisor Mitchell Appointee)

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog provided an opening welcome to newly appointed Commissioner Caroline Bhalla (Supervisor Mitchell). Commissioner Bhalla provided a brief introduction about herself.

Public Comment

No written public comment was received.

Cynthia Ruiz provided comment via phone call-in that she welcomes Commissioner Caroline Bhalla to the LA City/County Native American Indian Commission.

Action Items

Review & approval of the Unapproved January 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Andrea Garcia and seconded by Commissioner Rene' Williams to approve the unapproved January 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes. The motion passed.

YES	Garcia, Williams, Imitates Dog, Only A Chief, Escoto, Jackson, Villasenor
NO	
ABSTAIN	Bhalla, Castro
ABSENT	Morales Recalde, Toyon, Ortega Jr., Wise, Tenorio

Review and take possible action adopting a letter to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Recommending that they support the seating of the Cherokee Nation's delegate to the United States House of Representatives per the 1835 Treaty of New Echota

Item was removed from commissioner consideration by Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog.

Presentations

Care First Community Updates, Tencha Chavez (LANAIC CFCI Alternate Designee)

Item was tabled until March 19, 2024 meeting.



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[Introduction to County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health](#), Christine De Rosa (Interim Director, LAC Department of Public Health)

Christine De Rosa provided an overview of the key functions of the Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health, example initiatives that the office leads, and details about the upcoming public review period of their Five-Year Plan development that is projected for Spring 2024.

[Roles & Responsibilities of LANAIC Executive Director](#), Heather Rigby (Chief Deputy, LAC Department of Arts and Culture)

Heather Rigby provided an overview of the LANAIC purpose as defined in [LA County Code Chapter 3.42.020](#) and outlined current LANAIC staff duties and responsibilities.

[Framework to Establish a Land Acknowledgment for the Los Angeles City Council](#), Ronnell Hampton (Principal Equity Strategist, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department), Diamond James (Office of Race and Equity Director, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department) & Matthew Joun (Policy Analyst, LA Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department)

Ronnell Hampton provided a comprehensive overview of the process that the LA City Civil Rights Office undertook to develop a draft LA City Land Acknowledgement statement. Ronnell shared the draft land acknowledgement statement and opportunities for LANAIC feedback.

Chair's Report

February 1, 2024 Commission Services New Commissioner Training Recap

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog encouraged commissioners to participate in trainings that are offered by the County to support their understanding of their roles and duties.

Executive Director Report

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Quarter Three Priority Projects

Alexandra Valdes shared that the following items are three priority projects for LANAIC staff in the current quarter of the fiscal year: Tribal Consent and Consultation Statement of Work; Community Services Block Grant Full Fiscal and Program Monitoring; Report back for the Chief Executive Office Native American History Month Board of Supervisors Motion.



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Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that vacancies on the self-governance board will be appointed once vacancies in the LANAIC body are filled.

Homelessness Committee

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that the homelessness infographic received a positive response. She also stated that the committee would like to present the information at a Board of Supervisors Homelessness Cluster Meeting and will be following up with LA City about the budget letter that the LANAIC sent them a few months back.

2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that they are looking to come up with the theme for 2024 Native American Heritage Month and that the committee also has a tentative call with LA City Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez's Office on Friday to discuss her involvement.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner Andrea Garcia stated that LA County Department of Mental Health the LACTA solicitation for building public housing. The language that was incorporated encouraged developers to design culturally supportive housing and this is a win because it sets a precedent for cultural considerations to be taken during the development of public-funded projects.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that Peter Pan is going to be at the Pantages. Commissioner John Only A Chief shared that Scott George was nominated for an Oscar award.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.