



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 21, 2024

The May 21, 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 & Land Acknowledgement

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M. and read the Los Angeles County Land Acknowledgment.

Invocation

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde provided an invocation.

Roll Call

Present: Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog
Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor
Treasurer Denise Escoto
Dawn Jackson
Mona Morales Recalde
Rudy Ortega Jr.
John Only A Chief
Rene' Williams
Ted Tenorio
Rich Toyon

Absent: Caroline Bhalla (Excused)
Chrissie Castro (Excused)
Andrea Garcia (Excused)

Staff: Alexandra Valdes, Executive Director
Stephanie Guadron, Administrative Manager
Heather Rigby, Chief Deputy

Quorum was met.

Commissioner & Staff Introductions

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

Public Comment

None



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Action Items

Take action adopting absentee excuses

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Rich Toyon to adopt the Department of Arts and Culture policy regarding commissioner absentee excuses. The motion passed.

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

Commissioner Dawn Jackson asked if there is a limit to the number of allowable absences. Alexandra Valdes stated that there is no limit to the number of allowable absences. She also stated that commissioner attendance is submitted monthly to commission services and commission services only records attendance as 'present' and 'absent'.

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor stated that attendance could be recorded quarterly. Commissioner John Only A Chief stated that as a body the LANAIC should come up with the process and not have to have County counsel review. Commissioner Only A Chief also stated that the bylaws are being sidelined and they should be number one. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the topic of excused versus non-excused absences has come up several times and he asked Alexandra how other commissions address the matter. He also stated that he wants to make sure that whatever is reflected in the minutes should be tight and good documentation is important.

Alexandra Valdes stated that the LANAIC does have to adhere to County rules. Commissioner Only A Chief stated that the LANAIC is adhering to County rules by following the bylaws. Commissioner Dawn Jackson asked if all Department of Arts and Culture commissions have adopted absentee excuses. Heather Rigby stated that there are two commissions within the Department of Arts and Culture, and the Arts Commission follows the practice regarding commissioner absentee excuses.

Take action approving the April 16, 2024 Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC) Unapproved Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. to approve the unapproved April 16, 2024 LANAIC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed.



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

Approve Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presenting at the June 13, 2024 County of LA Homelessness Policy Board Deputies Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Rene’ Williams and seconded by Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde to approve Commissioner Dr. Andrea Garcia presenting at the June 13, 2024 County of LA Homelessness Policy Board Deputies Meeting. The motion passed.

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

Oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity’s process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgement and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. and seconded by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor to oppose the City of Los Angeles Department of Civil + Human Rights and Equity’s process to develop the draft City of LA land acknowledgement and recommend that the City request that the State of California Native American Heritage Commission complete proper vetting of documents to identify ancestral tribes within the Los Angeles City geographical area. The motion passed.

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



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Adopt the draft letter requesting that the Department of Arts and Culture allocate funding and qualified resources to support the development of a new website for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Dawn Jackson to adopt the draft letter requesting that the Department of Arts and Culture allocate funding and qualified resources to support the development of a new website for the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission. The motion passed.

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

Alexandra Valdes stated that the draft letter is included in the agenda packet.

Request that County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Relations review the proposed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor and seconded by Commissioner Rich Toyon to request that County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs Intergovernmental Relations review the proposed recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to oppose HR6859: Gabrielino/Tongva Nation Recognition Act of 2023. The motion passed.

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

Discussion Items

Discuss feasibility of 2024 Native American Heritage Month reception at LA City Hall’s Forecourt on November 1, 2024

Alexandra Valdes stated that there was an ad hoc meeting with LA Council District 7 (CD7). She shared that at the meeting CD7 stated that they connected with Los Angeles City Department of Cultural Affairs and determined that there is no way to move forward with a request for proposals solicitation as the LANAIC had recommended for an event coordinator to plan a



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reception at LA City Hall's Forecourt by November 1, 2024. Alexandra also stated that from the City's perspective they had committed to securing the location and that the LANAIC would be able to fundraise for the event. However, this did not take into consideration that the LANAIC is a County body and must follow County policies in regards to fundraising and contracting.. Further, Alexandra stated that it is uncommon to ask the County to provide resources for a City event.

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that it is unfortunate that the City is going back on what they said because it throws a wrench in the event and that he would like to follow up with the City if it would be possible to still hold the event if they could connect a community organization directly with the City. Heather Rigby stated that the ask is to go back to the City and see if they would be willing to work directly with an organization. Heather also stated that a work around is not typically what you would want to do because it may appear like the LANAIC is circumventing policies. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that the LANAIC is a stakeholder in facilitating activities. Chairperson Imitates Dog asked in the LANAIC needs to go back to the City. Alexandra stated that she recommends that the LANAIC should go back to the City if they want to discuss the matter in more detail because there was not a member from the City present to answer questions. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that the LANAIC wanted to get around the red tape. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that she believed that the LANAIC should reach out to CD7 and get something in writing.

Discuss taking possible action recommending LA City Council support a Kuruvungna Sawtelle District in the City of Los Angeles

Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde stated that LA City is looking to rezone in the Sawtelle district and that the district will be renamed to represent the first people of Los Angeles. She also shared that the draft letter that she submitted shows that the LANAIC shows support to establish this action. Commissioner Dawn Jackson asked if there is any opposition to the ask. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that there has not been any opposition that she has heard of and that renaming does require 500 signatures from the neighborhood and there is a group that is currently gathering signatures. Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor asked if the Los Angeles Unified School District owns the lot or if Commissioner Morales Recalde's tribe is trying to acquisition. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that one day that is the goal but they are not putting that in their heads first because they would not disrupt the LAUSD property. She also stated that the purpose is to have a cultural center, green space and a space for medical providers and that would require rezoning, which is what the draft letter is about.

Commissioner Rene' Williams asked if the item is for Commissioner Morales Recalde's tribe. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that the item is community based. Commissioner Rich Toyon asked if the proposed zone change would only be a change in name. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that the current zoning is residential, and the zone change would include a shift to hybrid zoning. Commissioner Williams asked if there is more information about this item besides the map that was provided. Commissioner Morales Recalde stated that there is more information in the packet that was provided and that there have been some plans for housing.



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Presentations

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

This item was tabled by the chair until the next meeting.

County Process Updates, Heather Rigby (Chief Deputy, LA County Department of Arts and Culture)

Heather Rigby stated that Brown Act structures and supports similar to the tools used by the Arts Commission create efficiencies to ensure that there is enough information for the Chairperson to decide if something is appropriate to put on a meeting agenda. Heather shared a packet and stated all items must be submitted when requests are made to the Chair. Heather stated that once requested items are submitted with all of the required information, the Chair works with the Executive Director to construct the meeting agenda. Heather shared that this process discourages sidebars and other discussions outside of Brown Act rules.

Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor asked if the form must still be filled out for items that come up organically. Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the process is to help him get data organized. Commissioner John Only A Chief asked how this process impacts public comment and if the public must also follow this process. Heather stated that members of the public cannot request agenda items and that public comment is maintained separately. Commissioner Only A Chief asked Shawn if this is a process that he supports. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that this was the process that was used for the last meeting and it was very helpful and that the process is to make sure that all information is complete and accurate. Alexandra Valdes stated that this process also ensures that agenda items reflect what the person is requesting.

Chair's Report

Recap of meeting with City of Long Beach staff about proposed Native American Commission

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the meeting with City of Long Beach staff was informal to learn about the origins of establishing the proposed Native American Commission and it sounds like it will likely not be moving forward. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that the City of Long Beach staff were interested in how to support their internal government infrastructure. Alexandra Valdes stated that all governments in California are experiencing budget cuts and it does not look like it will be going on their next budget. Chairperson Imitates Dog stated that the LANAIC wanted to know if there is a service that we are not providing and that does not look to be the case. Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde asked if the LANAIC should follow up with the council member that made the recommendation. Alexandra stated that through council action the commission would be advisory.

Executive Director Report



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Updates on the Traveling Exhibit “100 Years After the Indian Citizenship Act: The Continuing Struggle to Guarantee Voting Rights to Native Americans”

Alexandra Valdes stated that staff is working to finalize contracts to get the exhibit shipped and that a space in the Hall of Administration has been secured for the exhibit. Commissioner Ted Tenorio stated that he could have a meeting with Supervisor Hilda Solis to go over some ideas that he had because his nonprofit would offer to fund a part of the reception. Alexandra stated that Commissioner Tenorio could reach out to Supervisor Solis’ office directly. Commissioner Ted Tenorio shared about commemorative coins that he bought that Commissioner Chrissie Castro could pass out at the reception.

Committee & Ad-hoc Committee Reports

Self-Governance Board

Commissioner Dawn Jackson stated that the Community Needs Assessment survey is live and she made signs with QR codes to help collect responses. She also stated that the goal is to collect 200 surveys by January 2025.

Homelessness Committee

None

2024 Native American Heritage Month Ad Hoc Committee

None

FY23-24 Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee

None

Legislative Agenda Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioner Rudy Ortega, Jr. stated that the committee has not met and that he has met with Assemblymember Ramos and there are a few items of interest that he will follow up about once he has more information.

Commissioner General Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Commissioner John Only A Chief asked if there would be a vote about adopting the process for submitting agenda items or if the LANAIC is just being told how to do it. Commissioner Only A Chief stated that there are only 10-13 members who are present at the meetings and that the LANAIC is a 15 member body. Commissioner Only A Chief requested that the two vacancies on the body be added to the agenda because it is important to show that there are two missing



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commissioners and that falls in line with absences to him. Alexandra Valdes stated that the two vacancies could be added to the agenda because that is a format update.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales Recalde and seconded by Vice Chairperson Mark Villasenor to add the letter of support as an action item on the July 2024 meeting agenda to show support. The motion passed.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Morales Recalde and seconded by Commissioner John Only A Chief to add the following action item to the July 16, 2024 meeting agenda, “Adopt an amendment to the approved meeting minutes from February 20, 2024 that reflects a change of absence status for Commissioner Mona Morales Recalde from ‘unexcused’ to ‘excused’”. The motion passed.

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

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog stated that the LA City Mayor’s office has identified two commissioners, and that he thinks they are going to be great additions to the LANAIC.

Moment of Silence

The LANAIC held a moment of silence in honor of Phil Hale.

Commission Adjournment

Chairperson Shawn Imitates Dog adjourned the meeting at 7:57 PM.