

# Tribal Relations Committee

CITY HALL, 175 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET

One Technology Center, 10th Floor, Chat Room North

10:00 am

MINUTES

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

1. *Call to Order*: Councilor Vanessa Hall Harper called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Present:

a. Tulsa City Council and City of Tulsa:

- i. Councilor Vanessa Hall Harper (District 1)
- ii. Councilor Lori Decter Wright (District 7)
- iii. Councilor Crista Patrick (District 3)
- iv. Sarah Davis (City Council Staff)
- v. Brandon Worley (City Council Staff)
- vi. Chris Baughman (City Council Staff)
- vii. Jed Cochran (Mayor's Office)

b. Tribal Representatives:

- i. Zech Harjo (Muscogee Nation)
- ii. Hunter Erwin (Muscogee Nation)
- iii. Sandra Golden (Muscogee Nation Council)
- iv. Kim Teehee (Cherokee Nation)
- v. Gene Perry (Cherokee Nation)
- vi. Joe Deere (Cherokee Nation)
- vii. Cheryl Cohenour (GAIAC)

2. Review and vote on the minutes from Tribal Relations Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - a. Minutes were reviewed by the committee. The motion to approve was moved by Cheryl Cohenour and seconded by Joe Deere. The motion passed.
3. Discussion and overview of the City of Tulsa's proposed Improve our Tulsa 3 package and ideas from Tribal partners for collaboration opportunities.
  - a. Cheryl presented and advocated for Dream Keepers Park. She presented that plans for the park are currently being evaluated by the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission. She and the commission would like to see a shelter, new parking, tribal artwork, and a jogging trail. Councilor Decter Wright asked how the project is being directed and what the current funding looks like. Cheryl discussed that the commission has had discussions with Anna America and the parks department. The commission has also met with neighbors about the park and their plans. Currently, they do not have a cost for the park. Zach discussed he would like to possibly expand Council Oak Park. Councilors discussed that the commission

should investigate creating a master plan for Dream Keepers Park. Jed brought up and discussed the current plans for Fair Oaks Industrial Infrastructure plan and the \$50 million in ARPA investments.

4. Discussion of Tribal Nation placemaking signs.
  - a. Joe Deere has had conversations regarding signs for the Cherokee Nation. They have had conversations with the county representatives about signs on county roads. The committee discussed that the signs should be designed to be large enough to see while driving on the highway and should reflect the nation that it represents. Muscogee Nation would like to focus on the downtown areas, the turnpike, and 169. They would like to have a large map created with possible locations of signs. Councilor Patrick and Zech Harjo would like to look into a historical placemaking hub along the admiral corridor of Route 66.
5. Update from Tribal Representatives on their election season and update/overview of their elections.
  - a. The Cherokee Nation talked about the new \$400 million hospital. They were also awarded \$100 million from the opioid settlement and will be using \$22-30 million for a treatment center. Cherokee Nation elections will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Muscogee Nations presented their upcoming events. They will be holding an intertribal event at the Muscogee Nation in July at the Riverspirit Casino. Zech gave an update on the dam project and other projects area in the nation.
6. Upcoming Tribal Nations Relations Committee agenda items
  - a. There are no upcoming items.
7. Adjournment
  - a. Meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.