

**Tribal Relations Committee**  
**CITY HALL, 175 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> STREET**  
**Room 411**  
**10:00 am**  
**MINUTES**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- I. *Call to Order:* Councilor Kara Joy McKee called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Present: Council Chair Vanessa Hall Harper, Councilor Jeannie Cue, Councilor Christa Patrick, Councilor Kara Joy McKee, Councilor Mykey Arthrell-Knezek, Council Vice Chair Lori Decter Wright, Councilor Jayme Fowler.

- II. *Discussion on committee organization, including but not limited to, goals, outcomes, schedules, meeting format, participants, potential partnerships, and other committee needs.*

Councilor McKee opened the meeting by discussing the committee organization regarding structure and staffing. Councilor McKee said that she would start as the chair for the committee and that it would be staffed by Brandon Worley from the council staff. The councilor would also bring in other staff as needed by the committee. The committee then started to discuss the structure of the committee members. The committee would consist of the city councilors present, a member of the Greater Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission (GTAIAC) or a member of the mayor's staff, and a representative from each of the three tribes' governments. Councilor Fowler expressed the need to have a representative of GTAIAC to help create an efficient line of communication between the two entities. Councilor McKee suggested that we reach out to the chair of the committee for a recommendation of what member would fill this role. Councilor Cue suggested that we should include a member of each tribe's leadership team to make sure that we have the most in-depth information from each tribe. Multiple councilor's suggested that these representatives be either from the tribal chief's office or a member of each tribe's legislative council.

Councilors then discussed if these meetings should be televised on TGOV. Council staff will investigate the TGOV schedule to make sure that these meetings would not conflict with other scheduled meetings.

The committee then discussed the goals for this committee. Councilor McKee proposed that the main goal of this committee would be to improve the intergovernmental relations between the tribes and the city council. The councilors then discussed how this would look and what steps need to be taken. The councilors

stressed the need to meet with their counterparts within the tribes to include them in the process and goal creation. They also expressed the need for more information on the structure of the tribal governments. Councilors also suggested that members of the committee should go to a tribal council meeting to watch and learn how each tribe conducts business.

The committee discussed the upcoming schedule for the committee in the upcoming year. Councilor McKee proposed that the schedule should be meeting monthly for the first three months of the year and then meeting quarterly after that. Councilors agreed that this structure would be advantageous for the group to provide them time to work on tasks in-between meetings. Councilor McKee said she would reach out to the tribes to see if a meeting on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10 am would work better for them. The next meeting would be in December and would consist of city staff and GTAIAC representatives to discuss more in-depth goal creation.

III. *Discussion regarding a draft land acknowledgment for Tribal Relations Committee Meetings.*

Councilor McKee presented her draft of the land acknowledgment both the long and short versions to the committee. The purpose behind the land acknowledgment is to recognize the tribes in our area. After reading of each version there was a consensus that the shorter version would be more appropriate for meetings and the longing for more formal events. Councilors discussed the possibility of reading the acknowledgment before the 5 pm council meeting. Council staff is reviewing this item.

IV. *Overview of the tribal government structures and geographical boundaries that coincide with the Tulsa City limits.*

The committee then proceeded to review a map created by INCOG of the Tulsa City Council district boundaries and the tribal land boundaries. The committee discussed differences in the boundaries and how much of each tribal nation coincides with Tulsa. The councilors then discussed the need to create a document that explains the structure of each of the tribe's governments. Councilors expressed the importance of including the tribes in creating these documents. Councilor McKee included links in the cultural competency guide that provide information created by the state and tribes. Committee will review the documents and work with the tribes to create sound information.

V. *Review and discussion regarding models and best practices for cultural competency that support an effective working government with tribal cultures and governments.*

Councilor McKee presented her Native American Cultural Competency Guide. This guide provides in-depth information on different topics relating to the tribal nations and American Indians. The committee reviewed the correct terms to use when referencing tribal members. Councilors discussed the need to support the dual citizenship of tribal members and US citizenship. They expressed the importance of not lumping all tribes together and emphasizing the sovereignty of each tribe.

VI. *Upcoming committee agenda items*

Scheduling a meeting for December with a member of GTAIAC, city staff, and possibly tribal representatives.

Draft an "Invitation Letter" for the committee members.

Create and approve a draft schedule for the committee.

VII. *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 pm