

MINUTES



Leech Lake Twin Cities Local Indian Council Meeting

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
2300 13th Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55404
August 28, 2018 5:30-8pm

Miigwech to Terry Dickens for saying a prayer.

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Call Meeting to Order @ 5:41pm
3. Special Presentation by Carrie Day Aspinwall

- You will see a change in our business. We will have open discussion first so that we can be more involved with people and to be more engaged with band members. We will also move the RTC up on the agenda so that we can be sure to hear from them.
- We want to hear about local resources and issues.
- Full out social media campaign, so please share.
- We have an upcoming retreat to help sort out plans for our LIC.
- Carrie shared a story about her life with her husband Richard. Richard worked for the city for many years and parked in the same spot daily. Feathers fell from the sky near his parking spot, so Richard started collecting them. Carrie and Richard took them to Herb Sam. Herb shared what to do with the feathers, give them away. Carrie gave a white eagle feather to each LIC member and sage to the LIC youth member, Avery Wind and TCO Director, Frances Butler.
- With that, Carrie presents the LIC for the upcoming year.

Roll Call:

Term ends June 2019

ab	Lisa Bellanger
X	Jean Howard
X	Shannon Nordby
X	Diana Sanders
X	Avery Wind

Term ends 2020

X	Carrie Day Aspinwall
X	Valerie Larsen

Attendance: approximately 28 band members + 6 LIC + 2 RTC
Door prize winners: Nicole Stone and Jean Torres each won a \$50 Cub Foods gift card

Old Business

New Business

4. Open Discussion from the Floor
 - No one volunteered to take the floor

5. Tribal Council
 - a) District 1
 - Not present
 - b) District 2
 - Not present
 - c) District 3

Handouts:

- July 2018 Minutes

- LeRoy Fairbanks went to visit The Wall today and shared that it was hard to see relatives there. LeRoy spent time listening to stories from those at camp. Levi Brown asked LeRoy to come down and visit camp. It's hard to see relatives who you can't immediately help, have

them come with you or that choose to continue to live down there. They are asked tribes to help. Who is represented down there the most? The states poorest tribes. Possibly the urban offices can request a donation from Mystic.

- Carrie Day Aspinwall we would like to continue to work on this issue, meet with elected and work towards a plan for support before you do too much.
- Native Census is coming up as well as a Get Out the Native Vote. LeRoy would like to connect with those working on this. Carrie shared that NACDI has a team working on getting out the vote.

d) Secretary Treasurer

- Not present

e) Chairperson

- Faron Jackson visited “The Wall” and feels concerned and that we need to figure out the root cause. Social issues need to be looked at simultaneously – rental histories and possible felonies are an issue. TCO has been helping out at The Wall by bringing needed items. Faron stopped by TCO today and said that Gina has found spaces for people to get shelter, but also heard that people do not want to leave The Wall. The rest of the council members are en route and it will take a collaboration to help solve the issue. Faron is very concerned about all of the people at The Wall.
- Shelter in Bena is always at capacity. It costs \$600,000 to run. We also know something is needed down here. There is a housing shortage in Cass Lake. Maybe the old Palace can be turned part way into housing for college students and homeless.
- We have to think out of the box to solve this problem. We have to live for today and know that historical trauma isn’t a reason to live like this.
 - Carrie Day Aspinwall: shared that there are 23 Leech Lake Families at The Wall. We feel broken. It’s sad but true; our people are the ones who suffer the most. Patina Parks is the Executive Director for Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center and is a part of Minneapolis Urban Indian Directors (MUID). MUID is taking the lead for coordinating donations and efforts to help. LIC has developed a relationship with a local church and the parishioners will be going to camp on Sunday and will seek out Leech Lake Band Members; James Cross and Fabian Jones will be helping with that.
 - Diane Grooms: mentioned the AICDC has been working on this for years. We need more urban offices involved. We could really use the help from reservations. It would be great to start a Native shelter. Also, once people are into homes, they continue to need support.
 - Terry Dickens shared that it would be great to make care packages to pass out.
 - Maybe we can utilize tiny homes and the experience from within the people at The Wall. There are many lots that could be utilized for tiny homes.
 - Jean Howard: Historical trauma is passed through the generations. Therefore, it does continue to affect people today. Many people at the camp are not educated and would not be able to obtain a home in the cities due to incredible home prices.
 - Carrie Day Aspinwall: These conversations are needed and we can all give input.

- Frances Butler said that Mike Goze was going to give up one of his living spaces to help. More information is needed about this.

6. Ain Dah Yung Youth Street Outreach Advocate – Ombaazhi Guernsey

- Ombazhi is a Street Outreach worker, carries Narcan and can help with Coordinated Entry for those less than 24 years. She can also take referrals. Wrap around meetings are possible and Ombazhi can help get treatment for youth. Youth (under 21) supportive housing will open on University soon – Mino Oshki of Ain Dah Yung

7. Reports of

a) LIC

- We are going on a retreat so that we can begin to revise our by-laws and work on the budget. We want to do community outreach. We want to be relevant. We think we have a list of 1000 band members in the cities and would like to reach out.

b) TCO

- Mike Chosa – District 1 Valley Fair Day was a success and they had chicken leftover. It was brought down to The Wall.
- The Annual Picnic will be on September 7th from 4-7 and band members can sign up for Valley Fair and get backpacks - for school age, kindergarten-6th grade children.
- There is a budget cut on bus cards and gift cards – one per household per quarter and TCO will be cross-referencing with elder advocates and ICWA.
- Fabian Jones will be starting open circle on Wednesdays from 3-4 with refreshments starting September 12.
- There is a new resource booklet that band members can use at TCO at the front desk.
- Diaper program is running again and is open to anyone in the community.
- Frances Butler would like us to get a contact list together and bring it to the picnic.
 - Carrie Day Aspinwall: The mid-month meeting is open to TCO to attend so that we can share events, programs and coordinate. We are here to help support TCO and Frances Butler.

c) TCO Elder Advocate

- Val Carrie and I go a long way back.
- Is this the bonding year?
- Tribal Assistance in July was inundated and the computers went down. Checks will come soon.
- Frank Reese was going to be here tonight and the Veteran's \$300 is still on and the elders also get elder funding. He needs you DD14 forms.
- We are running into a lot of vulnerable adults. Avis refers this to other agencies. It's getting difficult because elders are not willing to press charges if abuse is occurring. Oftentimes drugs are involved. Avis is working with Beltrami to figure out how to deal with this situation.
- Alzheimer's is on the rise across the board.
- Avis is concerned about the 50 Cent Crew because of issues with chemical use and they are living in the woods. Public drunkenness has become a problem in Cass Lake and Bemidji. Young people

go around at night and beat up the 50 Cent Crew. Avis will be presenting this to the Tribal Council.

- Avis will be meeting with her supervisor to find out how they can help with homeless Leech Lakers in the cities.
- Congratulations to Fran on her directorship of TCO. It seemed like we were being undermined and it doesn't feel like that anymore.
- Elder Program is going to give two \$100 Walmart gift cards, two \$75 Walmart gift cards, two \$25 Holiday gift cards for the TCO Annual Picnic!

d) ICWA – Cheyenne Kingbird

- Now at 110 cases and 200 kids. There are new cases that aren't in the system yet.
- Last few months only been able to close three cases, waiting for the courts to close them or do transfer of legal custody. The state must review all the cases and agree with the orders and that takes a while.
- Dawn Eckdahl is a new supervisor and that's been going great. TC ICWA has already received training as a result.
- 100 in ICWA homes, 62 are in non-ICWA homes. 38 at home and/or waiting for case to be closed.

Next Meeting/LIC Endorsed Events:

- September 25, 2018, 5:30-8 pm *Leech Lake Twin Cities Local Indian Council Meeting*
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
2300 15th Avenue South | Minneapolis, MN | 55404

Adjourned approximately 8:00 pm
Respectfully Submitted,



Twin Cities Local Indian Council Secretary/Treasurer