

**NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 13, 2009**

Members Present: Scott Satermo, Robin Nelson, Jaclynn Davis Walette, Sharon White Bear, Sandi Berlin

Members not present: Dr. Tim Mahoney, Guy Fox

Others present: Willard Yellow Bird, Sandy Reynolds, Delvin Rodgers, Mary John, and various members of the community

Smudge and Blessing Ceremony were conducted by Delvin Rodgers to welcome Robin Nelson, Fargo Public School Liaison, to the Native American Commission.

Item 1. Opening and Introductions - Scott opened the meeting and introductions were conducted.

Items 2. Approval of Agenda and May and June Minutes – Don motioned to approve the agenda and minutes. Jaclynn seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Item 3. Presentation to Mary John – Scott welcomed Mary John and on behalf of the NAC he presented her with a plaque in recognition of her selection for the National Native Elder Award.

She was also presented a shawl for her hard work and dedication to the Fargo Moorhead Community.

Item 4. Native American Community Family Potluck Picnic – Jaclynn advised the picnic will be held August 30, 2009, 11:00 a.m. at Oak Grove Park, Shelter #2. Hamburgers, hot dogs and punch will be provided; all attendees are asked to bring a plate to share. She will send out a flyer with more information soon.

Item 5. Sweat Lodge Update – It was reported that an issue arose regarding the use of wood from a neighboring business, the issue has been resolved and it was discussed how important it is to be a good neighbor and respect others to prevent future misunderstandings.

Discussion was held regarding the need for Porta Potty's at the site as well as a sign. The individual handling these procurements has moved out of the area and lost contact with the NAC. Jaclynn volunteered to finish the work on these items.

Item 6. MHA Satellite Office and Grant Update – Willard received a call from the City Planning Office asking if the NAC is still interested in the old GTC office building

space for this project. He has discussed the grant with Guy and wishes to encourage the NAC to move forward on this project before the site is lost.

Item 7. Discussion of Fargo Native American Education Liaison to NAC – Scott suggested that in order to strengthen the relationship with parents and children in the community the NAC may consider including a person involved in the Indian Education program as a NAC member.

Discussion was held and it was decided that it might be feasible, and would be beneficial, to create a liaison in addition to the School Board representative who has been appointed to serve. Robin would like to be the direct contact with any Indian Education Liaison. She will research this item and report back to the NAC at a future meeting.

Item 8. Appointing a New Spiritual Advisor – Willard reported that Thomas Bullhead, Spiritual Advisor to the NAC, has left the area. Delvin Rodgers has been doing a lot of the Spiritual Leader duties in his absence. Willard asks the NAC to consider appointing Delvin as the new Spiritual Advisor and approving payment of a stipend when he is needed.

Discussion was held and members agree to appointment as long as other individuals could be utilized as well.

Don motioned to appoint Delvin Rodgers as Spiritual Advisor to the NAC. Robin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 9. Sub Committee Updates – None.

Item 10. Financial Report – No changes to report.

Item 11. Old Business – None.

Item 12. New Business – Sharon attended the YWCA Board Seminar, Robert's Rules of Order. She distributed a "Motions Chart" to the members.

Item 13. Public Comment – Delvin Rodgers explained his spiritual experience to the NAC. He informed that he will do anything he can to help the people but he is young and tradition requires him to become a helper in any spiritual circumstance in which an elder is present.

Jaclynn reported NDSU is offering Dacotah language and history classes this semester. A kick off will be held August 25 at 4:30 in the Native American Garden area on campus.

Jaclynn shared a personal experience in which she was refused service at a restaurant. She is considering filing a complaint regarding this possible violation of her civil rights.

Mary John reported on behalf of Daughters of the Earth, that women from many tribes have inquired regarding sweats. She has been in contact with Joyce Belgarde from Turtle Mountain who has agreed to come and do a women's sweat, just women, ran by women.

Olivia Melroe commended the NAC for considering the Native American Indian Program Liaison and for the example it will set.

14. Adjourn – Sharon motioned to adjourn. Robin seconded the motion.

Next meeting, September 10, 2009, 5:00 p.m., Fargo City Hall, Commission Room