



## **Minutes of the American Indian Heritage Commission (AIHC) Quarterly Meeting**

**November 1, 2023**

**Nature Research Center, Raleigh, NC**

The American Indian Heritage Commission (AIHC) convened its quarterly meeting on November 1, 2023, at the Nature Research Center in Raleigh, NC. Chair Sandon Jacobs called the meeting to order and welcomed commissioners and guests. The meeting began with an Honor Drum Song.

### **Attendance**

The meeting was attended by the following AIHC commissioners:

- **Coharie Indian Tribe** – Greg Jacobs
- **Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe** – Dr. Marvin Richardson
- **Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina** – Nancy Strickland Fields
- **Meherrin Indian Tribe** – Chief Jonathan Caudill
- **Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation** – Forest Hazel
- **Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe** – JD Moore
- **Cumberland County Association for Indian People** – Rebecca Locklear
- **Guilford Native American Association** – Jennifer Revels Baxter
- **Metrolina Native American Association** – Rebecca LaClaire
- **Triangle Native American Society** – Sandon Jacobs (Chair)

**Note:** The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' commissioner seat remains vacant. Birdie Harlan was removed as their representative following the January 26, 2023, meeting. Commissioner Kara Stewart (Sappony Indian Tribe) was absent.

### **Departmental Remarks**

- **D. Reid Wilson, Secretary of NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR)**, welcomed commissioners and provided department-wide updates.
- **Pamela Brewington Cashwell, Secretary of NC Department of Administration**, provided updates, including those from the NC Commission of Indian Affairs (NCCIA). She highlighted the upcoming **80th Annual National Congress of American Indians Convention & Marketplace** and ongoing efforts to eliminate state tribes from the NCAI voting process. A roundtable discussion ensued between Secretary Cashwell and AIHC commissioners and staff regarding this issue.



### **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Chair Jacobs read the **Conflict of Interest Statement** to commissioners. No conflicts were reported.

### **Commissioner Updates**

Commissioners provided updates from their respective tribes and organizations, with a particular focus on **American Indian Heritage Month** activities planned for November.

### **Program Presentations**

- **Leslie Leonard, Administrator of the NC Highway Historical Marker Program**, shared updates on approved **tribal highway markers** from 2023. Unveiling ceremonies and final confirmation of marker locations were discussed.
- **Kaya Littleturtle, Coordinator of Education Programs at the NC Museum of History**, provided an update on the **28th Annual NC American Indian Heritage Celebration**, scheduled for November 18. Kaya also noted the possibility of **relocating the 2024 celebration** due to upcoming renovations at the NC Museum of History. Chief Deputy Secretary **Staci Meyer** also commented on this potential change.

Chair Jacobs called for a brief recess.

### **NCAIHC Staff Reports**

#### **Director's Report – Kerry Bird**

Director Bird provided announcements and updates on the following:

- **Strategic Plan Update**
- **Highway Historical Markers**
- **Oral History Interviews**
- **National Archives Grant for expansion of oral history program**
- **Pomeroy Foundation grant for NC Indian School marker trail**
- **HBCU/MIHE 2024 Summer Intern**
- **Carolina K-12 partnership**
- **Indian Citizenship Act 100th Anniversary Commemoration**
- **Conferences attended**



- **Upcoming events and future meeting dates**

#### **Associate Director's Report – Quinn Godwin**

- Overview of the new **AIHC Heritage Month Toolkit**
- Summary of a **September lecture series on NC American Indian Schools** at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at NC State University

#### **New Items & Action Item Discussion**

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Chair Jacobs called for a vote on the **October 14, 2022, and January 26, 2023, AIHC meeting minutes**, which were included in commissioner meeting packets. **Minutes were accepted.**
- **NC American Indian Schools Trail Committee Formation:** Chair Jacobs motioned to select commissioners for a committee to facilitate research and documentation for **40 historical markers proposed in the Pomeroy Foundation grant application.**
  - **Commissioner Forest Hazel** suggested that **all 12 commissioners should participate** due to AIHC's small size.
  - Chair Jacobs inquired about Commissioner Hazel's expertise in selecting schools to honor. Hazel agreed to provide guidance.
  - Discussion on **ratios of markers per tribe** and equitable distribution over the **3–5-year process.**
  - Commissioner Hazel questioned **EBCI's participation**, given their current vacant seat. Director Bird stated that they will likely participate.
  - Chair Jacobs noted that **tribal councils should have the final say on selected schools.**
  - Chair Jacobs amended the motion to **table the discussion until the January 2024 meeting.** Motion **seconded by Commissioner Caudill** and **approved.**
- **Indian Citizenship Act Commemoration Committee Formation:** Director Bird called for a committee to examine the impact of the **Indian Citizenship Act (commemoration in May 2024).**
  - **Commissioner Richardson** nominated **Commissioner LaClaire** to the committee.
  - Director Bird provided historical context on how the act affected American Indians differently across the nation.
  - **Commissioner Fields** provided **additional historical insight.**



- Chair Jacobs called for a voice vote; **ayes approved the nomination.**
- **Commissioner Hazel nominated Commissioner Baxter; motion seconded by Commissioner Fields.**
- Chair Jacobs called for a voice vote; **ayes approved the nomination.**

### **Closing & Adjournment**

Director Bird suggested sending out a **Doodle poll** to determine the **January 2024 meeting date.**

Chair Jacobs adjourned the meeting at **1:05 PM.**

### **Commissioner/Staff Lunch**

A lunch was held for commissioners and staff from **1:05 PM – 2:00 PM.**