

**BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting:**

**Thursday:**

**March 3, 2016:**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Native American Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the City Commission Room at City Hall at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3, 2016.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Sharon White Bear, Connie Longie, Clinton Alexander, Crystal Gonzales, Guy Fox

Absent: David Donahue, Maylynn Warne, Melissa Sobolik, John Strand

Also Present: Kristina Kaupa, Cristie Jacobsen

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Alexander welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda**

Ms. Longie moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Ms. White Bear. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 3. Minutes: Regular Meeting of February 4, 2016**

Mr. Fox moved the minutes of the February 4, 2016 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Ms. Gonzales. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

**Item 4. Announcements**

Ms. Longie is coordinating this year's Fargo Marathon drumming and potluck celebration. The marathon requests an in kind donation be made by groups hosting activities along the marathon route. This donation has been detailed in the budget.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Woodlands and High Plains Powwow will take place April 2<sup>nd</sup> at NDSU's Memorial Union.

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Crossroads Powwow will be held May 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. More information can be found on facebook and fmsmokesignals.com

The Kiwanis Pancake Carnival is Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 7am-7pm at the Fargodome.

**Item 5. Presentation: Indian Childcare Welfare (ICW) Project—Carrie Smith, Patricia Pedall & Laura Davison**

Out of a total 241 children in out-of-home placements in Cass County (foster care, county and therapeutic level), 11% (roughly 27 children with 7 from Turtle Mountain, 4 from Spirit, 3 from Standing Rock, 3 from 3-Affiliated Tribes, and 6 from White Earth) are Native Americans, with only 2 in Native American Homes and 2 in group home placements. As such, the county is not in compliance with the Indian Childcare Welfare

Act (ICWA). Along with Chair Alexander and Liaison Tanya Red Road, members from Cass County Social Services attended a conference to learn about the recruitment and retention of foster care families among Native Americans. After meeting with the Native American Coalition, Cass County Social Services looks forward to partnering with the Native American Center, Commission and Coalition to raise awareness regarding the need for Native American foster families, what it means to be a foster family and to develop a comprehensive and effective plan for recruitment and retention. The next meeting will take place March 14<sup>th</sup> and all are invited to attend. More information can be found at [fmsmokesignals.com](http://fmsmokesignals.com), or by contacting Rose (social services, foster care licenser) at 701.241.5765.

#### **Item 6. Other Business & Committee Updates**

Mr. Fox will be attending MSUM's next American Indian Student Association (AISA) meeting to establish a relationship, describe the commission's work and discuss options for and gauge interest in collaboration.

Mr. Fox met with the NDSU extension office regarding the Sweat Lodge. An architectural rendering is being developed and will be shared with the commission as soon as possible. Those interested in more information on sweats or the lodge can contact Mr. Fox at 701.361.1919 or [guy@foxunderground.com](mailto:guy@foxunderground.com).

#### **Health and Wellness**

Ms. Warne (not present) will present on the "2015 Greater Fargo-Moorhead Community Health Needs Assessment of American Indian Residents" at next month's meeting. She, Mr. Alexander and Ms. White Bear plan to work with stakeholders in the community to host a forum where results will be presented to the broader community.

#### **Events and Marketing**

The next Indigenous People's Day planning meeting will be March 31<sup>st</sup>, 12:00pm at the Fargo Public Library (Main).

The Events and Marketing committee is looking for people to help with the website and funding request letters for Indigenous Peoples Day. The letter template will be reviewed and voted on at the April meeting.

#### **Education**

A meeting with the Fargo Superintendent and other administrators, regarding Native American student issues and needs, has been scheduled.

#### **2016 Budget Recommendations**

The 2016 Budget Recommendations, developed at the Planning Retreat, were presented. Mr. Fox made a motion to approve the budget as it was presented. Second by Ms. White Bear. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

### **Strategic Planning Retreat**

Consent items distributed and Mr. Alexander noted that commission members can be available to answer any questions.

#### **Item 8. Public Comment (6:30 p.m.)**

Scott Satermo, former Commission member and President of the FM Crossroads Powwow Committee made an announcement regarding the event, noting that: it will be one of the largest in the Midwest, there will be over 25 food vendors and currently 40 craft vendors, but they are still accepting applications and that anyone interested in donating to the event can visit <https://www.gofundme.com/fargopowwow> The committee is putting together an ad book and would like to have a page with information and a picture of the commission. This information, along with the Native American Commission logo would be needed before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chair Alexander noted that the commission will schedule time to take a photo and pass along the required materials by the noted deadline.

#### **Item 9. Adjourn**

The time at adjournment was 6:40 p.m.