



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 2, 2024

Time: 9:30am

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

INVOCATION

Led by Vonnie McCormick

Council Members Present

Nealie McCormick, Chairman
Donald Kirkland, Vice Chairman
Rhonda Bennett
Heidi Altman
Paul Brannen
Maureen Meyers
Terry Raber
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)

Guests Present

Vonnie McCormick
Dr. Edward Lo, Georgia Southern University
Matthew Popkin, Georgia Tech
Alexa Bowman Olay, Georgia Tech
Adiba Syed, Georgia Tech
Micki Wildcat, U.S. Census Bureau

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on September 23, 2024, were distributed for review. Donald Kirkland moved to accept minutes; Terry Raber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRIBE REPORTS

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

- They continue to work with the Southeast Regional Elders Council with USDA on their high tunnels and getting them back up and running.
- They have been working with Georgia Tech and Partnership for Inclusive Innovation on technology for their greenhouses.
- They had their 52nd powwow, which incorporated more Muskogee elements like stomp dancing and stick ball.
- They are working on a project called "Cule" with Georgia Tech, which is a scientific project related to carbon.



- They have been asked to present at an event for the Union of Aerospace and Mechanics in Atlanta in February.
- They had a meeting for the Georgia Interstate Indian Council (GIIC), which discussed workforce investment, grants, and had historical presentations.
- They are working on digitizing their records with Secure Records Solutions and Valdosta State University, along with help potentially from Georgia Archives.

Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee: Provided by Co-Chief Rhonda Bennett.

- Roll Update: GTEC Council is updating the tribal roll with a new genealogy committee tracking births, deaths, and reviewing applicants with ties to the Guion Miller Roll for enrollment, pending Council approval.
- Cherokee Language Program: High interest in the language program, with three UNGA members eager to help. Materials will include books and audio-visual resources.
- Spring Tribal Event: Planning to set a date for the spring event with stomp dancers, music, and food. All members will be invited for updates on tribal business and community time.
- Roundabout Dedication: Senator Steve Gooch invited members to the dedication of a roundabout for Cherokee Princess Trahlyta in Dahlonega. Several tribal members attended.
- Advisory Committee Appointment: Honored to join the Lumpkin County Native American Advisory Committee with other local leaders, focusing on dedicating part of Yahoola Creek Park to Cherokee heritage. Next meeting on November 6.
- Historical Presentation: Scheduled to present on Cherokee history in North Georgia for the Banks and Franklin County Historical Societies on November 3.

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: Provided by Paul Brannen.

- The tribe was in the direct path of the recent storms that came through the area. Luckily, their tribal grounds did not get a direct hit, but there were power outages in the surrounding areas for several days.
- One of our tribal members is applying for grants to help nonprofits that were financially affected by the storms, which will likely help the tribe pay some of their bills.
- We been working on connecting the tribe with someone to help them with their electric grid, as part of the Smarter Small Buildings Campaign sponsored by the Department of Energy.

PRESENTATIONS

Alexa Bowman Olay, Matthew Popkin, and Adiba Syed, from Georgia Tech-GCAIC Policy Task Force Team, presented their research project to the Council.

Micki Wildcat, from the U.S. Census Bureau, presented to the Council how the Census can help the Native community.

PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current and potential projects to include:



- A) Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe digitization of records: Christian Dane met with Georgia Archives to discuss the digital preservation of the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe's records in a secure manner.
- B) Native Site Project with PIN: The Council would like to have a comprehensive list of approximately 50 sites with significant Native history and cultural significance throughout Georgia, which would be posted on the Council's website and potentially on a digital platform like an app. Working with PIN to make this happen.

BUSINESS

- A) None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A) Dr. Frank Williams sworn in on Sept. 30th.
- B) Welcome, Maureen Meyers
- C) Georgia State Council of Machinists of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
 - a. February 17-19, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Donald Kirkland moved to adjourn meeting. Heidi Altman seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:20am.