



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 8, 2024

Time: 12:00pm

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
Royce McCrary
Paul Brannen
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)

Guests Present

Vonnie McCormick
Mike Stopp
2nd Lieutenant James Puls, United States Army
Debra Lam, Partnership for Inclusive Innovation
Dr. Josiah Hester, Georgia Tech

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on May 20, 2024, were distributed for review. Heidi Altman moved to accept minutes; Donald Kirkland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TRIBE REPORTS

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

- Working with Georgia Tech on wood project and energy project, letter of intent ready to go.
- Still working on greenhouses, bought 800 bluegills. Growing variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Attended NCAI Mid-Year prior week. Learned a lot there.
- Continuing language program.

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: Provided by Paul Brannen.

- Preparing for Green Corn celebration
- Language class is going well.



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

- In process of updating tribe's roll.
- Working toward beginning language program.
- Working on development grant – has appointment with Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Josiah Hester discusses his role at Georgia Tech as associate professor of computing and computer science as well as background as Native Hawaiian. Shares how his work and that of the state-recognized tribes and Council can come together to make positive impact.

Debra Lam, Executive Director of Partnership for Inclusive Innovation (PIN), explains organization. Based in Georgia Tech while supporting higher education around the nation, the premise of PIN is the belief that innovation, data, and technology are important catalysts for economic prosperity and upward mobility while not being an end state. Further shares how PIN, Council and state-recognized tribes, along with Dr. Hester, can work together to reach positive outcomes.

PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current and potential projects to include:

- A) DNR State Parks and Historic Sites Potential Project(s) – DNR received funds to begin process on projects.
- B) Rock Eagle Signage – 4-H received funds to begin working on educational sign to be placed at Rock Eagle.

BUSINESS

Heidi Altman moves to approve the drafted resolutions for JB Jones and Jared Wood. Donald Kirkland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christian Dane discusses Tribe Night coming up on June 29th and next in-person meeting to be held at Stone Mountain Park on November 2nd in conjunction with Stone Mountain Native American Festival and Powwow.

ADJOURNMENT

Donald Kirkland moved to adjourn meeting. Rhonda Bennett seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:52pm.