LOUISIANA GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2021

Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar called the meeting to order at 9:35

1. The opening prayer was led by Geneva LeBeouf.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Roll Call was taken. The following were present: Ms. Deborah Garrett, Adai Caddo Indians of Louisiana; Chief Thomas Rivers, Choctaw-Apachee Tribe of Ebarb; Ms. Katie Dehart, Isle de Jean Charles Band of BCC; Chief Brian Neal, Clifton Choctaw Tribe of Louisiana; Chief Len Wiggins, Four-Winds Cherokee Tribe; Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar, Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of BCC; Secretary Geneva LeBeouf, Point au Chien Indian Tribe; Chief Rebecca Britt, Louisiana Band of Choctaw Indians; Chief Randy Verdun, Bayou Lafourche Band BCCM; Pat Arnould, La. Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs; Ms. Holley Talley, Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Chip McGimsey, State Archeologist.
4. Geneva read the minutes; Chief Rebecca Britt made a motion to accept, Chief Thomas Rivers second the motion. Motion passed.
5. Amendment to Act 102 was discussed regarding concerns with Act 102. Commission members gave their opinions, example: alternates for delegates to vote; concerns for some of the wording; proxy issue responsibility and number of participants. Geneva made a motion to not vote at this time. Chief Britt. Motion passed.
6. Jack Lambert volunteered to draft to address changes to Act 102. Geneva LeBeouf made a motion to accept; second Chief Rebecca Britt. Motion passed.
7. Chief Rebecca Britt read the Commission mission statement she had drafted. Pat Arnould made corrections. Chief Brian Neal made a motion to accept; Chief Len Wiggins seconded the motion. Each member made comments. Meeting came to a halt because Chief Brian Neal had to leave the meeting.
8. 2021 Office o Indian Affairs Scholarship – Discussion about reworking the scholarship application to use student number instead of social security number; redacting for security of information. 2021 scholarship will be awarded for the fall semester.
9. Point-au-Chien Indian Tribe requested the Commission to investigate the Terrebonne Parish School District, French Immersion petition and closure of Point-au-Chenes Elementary School. Patty Ferguson Bohnee talked about the closing of PAC School. The school is 70% Native American, Native American failures in Terrebonne Parish, the history of racism in Terrebonne School District. French Immersion has been brought to them twice and they have disregarded their petition.
10. Terrebonne Parish Diversity Board – Mrs. Shirley May made a motion to address the Terrebonne Parish School Board regarding denial of French Immersion School and the closing of the school; second Chief Len Wiggins. Motion passed. Chief Shirell Parfait-Dardar will submit the petition to Pat Arnould.
11. Chief Shirell will send out a doodle poll for the next date for the Commission meeting.
12. Chief Shirell led in the closing prayer
13. Motion to adjourn by Geneva LeBeouf; second by Chief Len Wiggins. Motion passed.