

## Commission Meeting Minutes

1445 K Street, Room 1510, Lincoln NE 68508

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

11:00am-2:00pm

- I. Welcome | Call to Order: 12:35pm by: Malinda Williams
- II. Roll Call:
  - Connie Edmond;
  - Dorothy Johnson;
  - Gwendolyn Easter;
  - Trevon Brooks;
  - Candace Reid;
  - Sean Miller;
  - Quentin Brown;
  - Clarice Jackson;
  - Malinda Williams;
  - Laban Njuguna: Arrived at: 12:34pm
  - Glenn Freeman: Absence
- III. Guidance for the Open Meeting Act – Ryan Baker
  - 12:36pm; Role is to provide legal advice as to business. Subject to Open Meetings Act. As per Neb.Rev.Stat. 84-1407. Certain requirements need to be met before having a public meeting. Physical sites are mandatory. One commissioner needs to be on site. Conferences need to be recorded. Copy of all documents that are to be considered. Agenda etc. Open meeting statute has to be present at the meetings as well as virtual. 1/2 can be virtual. Hybrid meetings are not

permissible. (Internal policy) Everyone must be present physically. Discretionary to allow public to speak, now its mandatory for public to make comments.

Members of the public can record the meeting and share as they see fit.

Reasonable public notice: Notice of Public Meeting must be made available.

Time of advance notice. 3-4 days is appropriate for notice. Agenda as well must be present. Closed sessions are acceptable but must have a good reason such as information not relevant to the public. Ex: Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices. Voting: any final votes must be public.

Q: Gwen: The rules of meetings and the ethics of meeting.

A: Informal meetings are not permissible if there are commission business being discussed.

Q: Connie: Our Bylaws do not trump the statute and liability of special meeting notices. More than half the meetings have to be physical.

Ryan Answer: 24 hours. Commissioners can't participate during Hybrid meetings. Recommended to post in the newspaper, but not required.

Ryan: Not specified by statute regarding meeting participation by commissioners. Any letters will be forwarded to the committee members.

- IV. Approval of previous meeting minutes: Motion to approved minutes from April 26 minutes. Motion to adjust consent agenda to remove the approval of previous minutes: Malinda Williams second by Connie  
(Possible issue with approval of current minutes)
- V. Vote for Executive Committee Roles: Votes for the Executive committee roles.  
Motion to appoint Malinda Williams as Chair and Dorothy Johnson as Vice Chair. Majority rules motion carries.
- VI. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee Report: Connie Edmond. New hiring of Sean Miller. Office leaks as to be executed. Outstanding meetings. Program manager Candace Reid has been trying to get in touch with other members.

b. Financial Committee Report: Mr. Freeman not available for comments. Report made by Connie. \$4,000 for rent. Outstanding issues regarding parking credit. Will not be getting credit for the parking. Morehouse sent 50k but only received 25k. Budget analysis. To date have not used funds and will need to discuss. Tony Clarke denied payroll. Previous chair promised to contribute to Juneteenth. The full commission must approve funds over 2,500. Gwen stated that she does not approve of the financial committee report because actions were taken.

The commission did agree to hire an administrative assistant.

c. Other Committee Updates: no reports.

VII. Project Manager Update - Candace Reid continuing to update the office equipment, software embeds into the website. Commissioner offices nationwide. Motion made by Dorothy Johnson to move public comment ahead of Executive session.

Q: How is the board elected?

A: Through the website.

Director of Indian Affairs and assistant present. Considered to be an ally to our agency. They work with tribal agencies which defer from the AA commission. She explained her role as Director and will have an appropriations meeting this summer. She hopes that the commission can be in the Capitol as the other commissions. i.e., Indian commission, Latino commission etc. Advises us to reach out to her commission to feel free. They have 2 bills passed and 5 stopped.

- VIII. Enter Executive Session for Administration and Personnel Matters per Open Meetings Act
- IX. Public Comments: Ramone Erving
- X. Adjournment Adjourned at 2:02pm