

*Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Biskaabiiyang Committee*

Open Meeting Minutes for January 29th at 9 am EST via Zoom

I. Opening Prayer

Done by Al Metzger

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

This open meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Chairperson, Nikki Nelson.

B. Roll Call

Nikki Nelson - Present	Chelsea Densmore - Present	Al Metzger - Present	Vicki Wells - Present
Delia Ross - Absent	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Attendees: Julie Wolfe -Council member

Chelsea D. made a motion to approve the agenda and Vicki Wells seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Yes	Chelsea Densmore - Yes	Al Metzger - Yes	Vicki Wells - Yes
Delia Ross - Absent	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Agenda approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.

D. Chelsea made a motion to approve the minutes from September 2021- December 2021 and Vicki seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Y	Chelsea Densmore - Y	Al Metzger - Y	Vicki Wells Y	
Delia Ross- absent	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>		

Minutes approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.

E. Reports

Chelsea made a motion to approve the 4th quarter report and 2022 Calendar and Vicki seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Y	Chelsea Densmore - Y	Al Metzger - Y	Vicki Wells - Y
Delia Ross - Y	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Report approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.

III. Old Business

A. Elder's Read to Children

DISCUSSION

Chelsea reported that we are adding a children’s section to our website. We’ve put out a flyer and are trying to coordinate with the Elders. Due to covid, the Elder’s have not met. We will keep it on the monthly agenda and keep reaching out to Elders. We'll be putting a children’s virtual page on the website where children can go and read and do other fun activities. Since we had all agreed previously, Nikki agreed that we could move this to items of information and keep on the agenda.

B. Book Club

DISCUSSION- Chelsea reported that the last book club went well. We sent out 20 books and had 7 that attended on a regular basis and some had purchased their own books. The next book the club was reviewing to read is *The Only Good Indian* by Stephen Graham Jones. It is written by an Indigenous author and will take us into a different genre of readings. We discussed getting digital/audio books and gifting them as we had previously. We all liked the idea of audio books due to the ease of listening to them. Discussed budget issues regarding purchase of books. Chelsea will email the council to see if we can use the rest of our budget from last year. Julie said the budget discussions by the council will be continued in February. Chelsea asked if we could just send it in like we did last year, with the proposal.

VOTE

Chelsea, made a motion to approve a budget for the purchase of 20 copies of the book by Stephen G. Jones for the book club to be started this winter and Vicki seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Y	Chelsea Densmore - Y	Al Metzger - Y	Vicki Wells - Y
Delia Ross - absent	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Motion approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.

IV. New Business

A. Winter Weekend

DISCUSSION- Snow Snakes- Nikki reached out about the snow snakes but found it to be expensive. She then reached out to Dave Corey who said he would do it. It will be for two weekends Starting Saturday Feb.12th and 19th. Looking at doing a 3-hour workshop where they would be made and painted with the following weekend holding a competition. Also talked about ice fishing, decoys and stories. The flyer was reviewed. The fishing decoys were left off the flyer, Nikki will add. Dave will coordinate snow snake. Nikki said we can do virtual stories during the snow snake and live stream or put on our website and Vicki offered to make rabbit stew as a lesson at Aki where those who are participating can eat.

Chelsea made a motion to send the proposal to council and Vicki seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Y	Chelsea Densmore - Y	Al Metzger - Y	Vicki Wells - Y
Delia Ross - Y	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Motion passed 5 in favor and 0 against

B. Sugar Bushing

Talked about how many days it should be held. Thoughts were we should coordinate with whoever is doing the sugar bushing this year. Julie asked about recording it and whether it would be on the website. We record all our teachings, some teachings may only have parts recorded but those that run a whole day will not, because of length. Martha and Dave will be doing it and we are looking for citizen participation. We will be sugar bushing in the traditional ways.

V. Concluding Business

A. Items of information

1. Dave and Martha will be doing the sugar bush.

B. Council Liaison – updates

Julie says not to send items to Rebecca anymore, as that is no longer her job because of the change in public relations. We should upload flyers and any communication items to her from here on out. She can upload to the website. All budget issues should be sent to the council liaisons.

C. Public Comment Period

No public attendance. Thank-you to Julie Wolfe for attending. We are still looking for committee members.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn this open meeting of the Biskaabiiyang Committee was made by Chelsea and seconded by Vicki and Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, adjourned the meeting at 9:46 am which passed 5 in favor, and 0 against.

Nikki Nelson -Y	Chelsea Densmore - Y	Al Metzger - Y	Vicki Wells - Y
Delia Ross - Y	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

*Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Biskaabiiyang Committee*

Open Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2022 at 9:00 am EST via Zoom

I. Opening Prayer -Al gave opening prayer

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

This open meeting was called to order at 9:07 by Vice President Chelsea Densmore.

B. Roll Call

Nikki Nelson - Absent	Chelsea Densmore - Present	Al Metzger - Present	Vicki Wells - Present
Delia Ross - Present	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Attendees: None

C. Approval of Agenda

Al Metzger, made a motion to approve the agenda and Delia Ross, seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Absent	Chelsea Densmore - Yes	Al Metzger - Yes	Vicki Wells - Yes
Delia Ross - Yes	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Agenda approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.

D. Meeting Minutes

Delia Ross, made a motion to approve the minutes from 1/26/2022, and Vicki Wells, seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - Absent	Chelsea Densmore - Yes	Al Metzger - Yes	Vicki Wells - Yes
Delia Ross - Yes	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Minutes approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.

E. Reports

None submitted

Nikki Nelson - _____	Chelsea Densmore - _____	Al Metzger - _____	Vicki Wells - _____
Delia Ross - _____	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

Report approved ____ in favor and ____ absent.

III. Old Business

A. ITEM - Book Club

DISCUSSION

At our last meeting we discussed the book we'd like to read: "Only Good Indians" by Steven Graham Jones, a Blackfoot. A proposal was sent to the council to purchase 20 hard-copies or digital copies that would be sent to members. As of this meeting, we have not heard from the council yet. Chelsea e-mailed again and will try again today. Our original date for the book club was March 16th but that date will need to be pushed back.

B. ITEM - Sugar Bush Camp

DISCUSSION

Corey Wells and Martha Howell will be doing the sugar bush for LRBOI. We will try to communicate with them to "borrow" a tree so that we can do a one day teaching which will hopefully be put online and partially in person. We don't have an exact date for this but anticipate it to be in early March or as late as mid-April. There is no cost.

IV. New Business

A. ITEM- Affirmation Day Pow Wow

DISCUSSION

Al wanted to let the committee know that he will be putting forth a proposal to have an Affirmation Day Pow Wow which is September 21st. He is looking at the dates September 17th or 24th. As he has spoken with tribal members, he says many want to have a powwow around this time. He will be bringing this to the council today. He will be asking for use of the pow wow grounds or in case of rain the event center. Al feels we are losing focus on who we are and we need to come together as one Nation. Hopefully, this will turn into a community event. The committee supports this idea.

V. Concluding Business

A. Items of information

1. Elders to Read to Children is on pause due to covid issues and not wanting to put our elders at risk. We are continuing to work on the children's page on the website.

2. Winter Weekend was canceled, as we never heard back from the council on doing this activity. Julie Wolfe did inform us that we should be going through our liaisons for issues such as this and not the council. It is too late to do this.

B. Council Liaison – updates

No liaisons were present.

C. Public Comment Period

Though there was no public present, Chelsea asked the committee if we had any concerns. Vicki felt that as a committee we are not taken seriously. We all felt that we do need to increase participation with our membership, as well as, council. We talked about anything that requires money is on hold. We thought that perhaps a work session may help us to clarify how we move forward. Gary said he wanted to schedule a work session and was invited to this meeting but did not attend. Gary prefers that it not be

on the same date as the council meetings. We will ask for a session to be held on Friday, March 4th. Hopefully, things can be clarified and how we can proceed. We were also concerned that our status has not been legally established. This is an issue left over from last year. We feel as though we are in a gray area. Who do we function under? How do we proceed as a committee if we're not sure of our legality? Are there any changes that are to be made? Chelsea also told us that Venus needs to update the committee's personal information. All information should be available to the tribe in its records.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn this open meeting of the Biskaabiiyang Committee was made by Vickie Wells, and seconded by Delia Ross, and Vice President, Chelsea Densmore, adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am, which passed 4in favor, and 0 against.

Nikki Nelson - absent	Chelsea Densmore - yes	Al Metzger - yes	Vicki Wells - yes
Delia Ross - yes	<i>Vacant Elder Seat</i>	<i>Vacant Seat</i>	

*Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Biskaabiiyang Committee*

Agenda

Wednesday, March 30th, at 9:00am EST via Zoom

Attached below is the agenda for our scheduled open meeting of the Biskaabiiyang Committee, however, due to no quorum at the meeting, this meeting was canceled. All items listed on the agenda will be moved to the next open meeting agenda.

I. Opening Prayer

II. General Business

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Agenda
- D. Meeting Minutes 02/23/2022
- E. Reports None submitted

III. Old Business

- A. Book Club
Discussion regarding the next book club and updates.
- B. Sugar Bush Camp
Updates, dates, details.

IV. New Business

- A. Spring Teachings
Dates, details, flyers.

V. Concluding Business

- A. Items of information
 - 1. Elders Read to Children
- B. Council Liaison – updates
- C. Public Comment Period

VI. Adjourn

***NEXT OPEN MEETING DATE
April 27th, 9:00am EST***

Zoom Meeting <https://emich.zoom.us/j/83935678736?pwd=SWxsSzVxOUpBOS9uNkdIYnBLNFAYQT09>
Meeting ID: 839 3567 8736 Passcode: 1836

2022

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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AUGUST

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NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

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JANUARY

C - Wednesday, 01/12/22
C - Wednesday, 01/19/22
OPEN Wednesday, 01/26/22

APRIL

C - Wednesday, 04/06/22
C - Wednesday, 04/20/22
OPEN Wednesday, 04/27/22
SPRING TEACHINGS 04/07-10/2022

FEBRUARY

C - Wednesday, 02/02/22
C - Wednesday, 02/16/22
OPEN - Wednesday, 02/23/22

MAY

C - Wednesday, 05/04/22
C - Wednesday, 05/18/22
OPEN Wednesday, 05/25/22

MARCH

C - Wednesday, 03/02/22
C - Wednesday, 03/16/22
OPEN Wednesday, 03/30/22

JUNE

C - Wednesday, 06/01/22
C - Wednesday, 06/15/22
OPEN Wednesday, 06/29/22

JULY

C - Wednesday, 07/06/22
C - Wednesday, 07/20/22
OPEN Wednesday, 07/27/22

AUGUST

C - Wednesday, 08/03/22
C - Wednesday, 08/17/22
OPEN Wednesday, 08/31/22

SEPTEMBER

C - Wednesday, 09/07/22
C - Wednesday, 09/21/22
OPEN Wednesday, 09/28/22

OCTOBER

C - Wednesday, 10/05/22
C - Wednesday, 10/19/22
OPEN Wednesday, 10/26/22
FALL TEACHINGS 10/06-09/2022

NOVEMBER

C - Wednesday, 11/02/22
C - Wednesday, 11/16/22
OPEN Wednesday, 11/30/22

DECEMBER

C - Wednesday, 12/07/22
OPEN Wednesday, 12/14/22

Biskaabiiyang Committee Work Plan

Section 1. Title; Authority; Purpose; Mission Statement

- 1.01 *Title.* The official name shall be the Biskaabiiyang (To Return to Oneself) Committee.
- 1.02 *Authority.* In accordance with the Committees Ordinance, #07-150-08, Article V, the Tribal Council hereby creates this Work Plan for the Biskaabiiyang Committee. This Committee is created, and the Work Plan is adopted by Tribal Council Resolution #20-1021-301.
- 1.03 *Purpose.* To maintain and foster our culture through the preservation, presentation and creation of cultural learning opportunities in relation to Anishinaabe traditions, stories, arts, recipes, history, and ceremonies, as available and appropriate, to all citizens through in-person and virtual opportunities.
- 1.04 *Mission Statement.* This Committee's mission is to promote, maintain and foster our history, culture, teachings, traditions, and ceremonies as Anishinaabe people that was fought for by those that walked before us, and as guaranteed by our constitution. We will work to preserve and make available equal opportunities in educational and cultural resources to all citizens through in person and virtual opportunities, as available and appropriate. This will be first and foremost at the direction of our elders and Clan mothers; and attained through the promotion and creation of cultural activities and workshops, traditional and contemporary tribal arts, and educational resources in indigenous history, stories, teachings, traditions, and ceremonies.

Section 2. Members

- 2.01 *General.* The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Biskaabiiyang Committee shall consist of seven (7) tribal members, three (3) of which must be elder tribal members. All Committee members shall be enrolled citizens of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- 2.02 *Selection.* In accordance with Section 4.02 of the Committees Ordinance and Tribal Council Resolution #20-1021-301, Selection of Biskaabiiyang Committee shall as follows:
 - a. A timeline for submissions for selection shall be established.
 - b. Notice shall be posted in the Currents Newspaper and the Tribal Website announcing the number of positions for Biskaabiiyang Committee.
 - c. Tribal Council shall review submissions (with criteria to follow) and place on the agenda for approval of the selected members by motion vote.
 - d. Tribal Council shall also select two (2) Tribal Council liaisons for the Biskaabiiyang Committee prior to the initial meeting of the Committee.
- 2.03 *Offices.* Committee members shall vote members into the following offices on the Biskaabiiyang Committee: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.

2.04 *Vacancies.* Any vacancy on the Biskaabiiyang Committee as a result of death, resignation, or removal shall be filled in accordance with the selection process described under Section 2.02 above.

Section 3. Purpose; Direction.

3.01 *Meetings.* The Biskaabiiyang Committee meetings shall be for a specific purpose as listed:

- a. *Regular Meetings:* Shall be held on _____ of each month. Regular meetings shall be open to the public and the announcement of the meeting date, time, and agenda shall be posted in what Tribal Media is available. Regular meetings shall be held via Zoom or another agreed upon virtual meeting room.
- b. *Special Meetings:* Special Meetings are allowable and if deemed necessary can be initiated by three (3) Committee members, by phone or email. Information must be recorded and approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

3.02 *Quorum.* Four (4) voting members of the Biskaabiiyang Committee shall constitute a quorum for all regular meetings. A quorum of the Committee must be present before any action or vote can be taken.

3.03 *Biskaabiiyang Committee Minutes.* Minutes of all Biskaabiiyang Committee meetings shall be kept as follows:

- a. *Format:* The minutes of all meetings shall include the following information:
 - i. Date, time, location of meeting.
 - ii. Committee members present and absent.
 - iii. Listing of other persons present at the meeting.
 - iv. Individual listings of reports, actions, and outcomes of each item.
 - v. Open and closing times.
- b. *Recording:* The Secretary shall be responsible for the recording of all actions of the Biskaabiiyang Committee.
- c. *Review and Approval of Minutes:* The Committee shall review, revise, or approve (with revisions or as written) minutes from the previous meeting at their next meeting. Approval of minutes shall be documented in the Committee minutes at which the previous meeting minutes were approved.
- d. *Maintenance of Minutes:* the original copy of all Committee meeting minutes shall be maintained by the Secretary of the Biskaabiiyang Committee.
- e. Minutes shall be forwarded to Tribal Council once they are approved for filing.

3.04 *Order of Business.* The meetings of the Biskaabiiyang Committee shall work from an agenda to expedite the conduct of the business at meetings. The Secretary shall be responsible for developing

meeting agendas in consultation with the Chairperson. Order of business for each regular meeting of the Committee shall follow the format below:

- a. Prayer
- b. Call to Order
- c. Roll Call
- d. Approval of Previous Board Minutes
- e. Reports (to be listed on the agenda)
- f. Old Business
- g. New Business
- h. Items of Information
- i. Elected Officials - updates
- j. Public Comment
- k. Adjournment

3.05 *Committee Responsibility.* The Officers of the Biskaabiiyang Committee shall consist of the duties and responsibilities listed below:

- a. Committee Chairperson shall exercise such powers as pertain to his/her office, inclusive of:
 - i. Preside at all meetings of the Committee or assign another Committee member.
 - ii. Provide for the orderly conduct of Committee meetings.
 - iii. Bring to the Committee through the agenda those matters that require the attention or action of the Biskaabiiyang Committee.
 - iv. Recommend the establishment of special meetings subject to the approval of the Committee.
 - v. Appear on behalf of the Committee in all actions brought by or against the Committee.
 - vi. Act as public spokesperson for the Committee except as this responsibility is delegated to others
- b. Vice Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson in his/her absence.
- c. Biskaabiiyang Committee Secretary shall:
 - i. Maintain accurate reporting of Committee actions and business through a recording of official Committee meeting minutes.
 - ii. Act as the liaison to Tribal Council for communication.

iii. Perform any other duties which may be assigned by the Committee.

3.06 *Biskaabiiyang Budget.* The Biskaabiiyang Committee shall be responsible for adopting a Cultural budget according to the process established by the Tribal Government. The Biskaabiiyang Committee is responsible for oversight of the budget to assure proper use of and accounting for Cultural department funds.

3.07 *Stipends.* The Biskaabiiyang Committee stipend shall be determined by Tribal Council Resolution.

Section 4. Length of Existence.

4.01 *Committee Existence.* The Biskaabiiyang Committee shall remain in existence until Tribal Council Resolution #20-1021-301 is rescinded.

4.02 *Amendment.* This work plan shall be reviewed on an annual basis by the Committee for amendments. All amendments must be presented at least one (1) meeting prior to action and must be adopted by two-thirds vote of the members present. Amendments are final when presented and approved by the Tribal Council through a resolution created and submitted by the Committee.

4.03 *Repeal.* This work plan may be repealed by the presentation of a request to the Tribal Council by the Committee in the form of a resolution containing the reasons a repeal of the work plan is necessary. The Committee must approve the repealing resolution by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Further, the Tribal Council may unilaterally repeal the work plan by repeal of the creating resolution or by adoption of a resolution calling for the repeal of the Committee's work plan.

Certification

I, Cicitee Chivis, as Chairperson/Secretary of the Biskaabiiyang Committee do hereby certify that the Biskaabiiyang Committee adopted this work plan at a duly called meeting on Jan 27th, 2020. 2021

I, Gary P. Di Piazza, as Tribal Council Recorder do hereby certify that the Tribal Council at a meeting call on October 21, 2020 adopted this work plan.

Gary P. Di Piazza