

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Biskaabiiyang Committee

Agenda
Wednesday, December 15th, 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, the meeting was called. All items listed on the agenda will be moved to the next open meeting, on January 26th, 2022.

I. Opening Prayer

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of Agenda

D. Meeting Minutes 09/24/2021 10/29/2021 11/19/2021

E. Reports 4th Quarter Report 2022 Meetings Calendar

III. Old Business

A. Elder's Read to Children
Updates, flyer, and discussion.

B. Book Club
Updates from finished book club and discussion regarding the next book club.

IV. New Business

A. None

V. Concluding Business

A. Items of information

1. Book Club update

2. Fall Teachings

B. Council Liaison – updates

C. Public Comment Period

VI. Adjourn

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

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

Biskaabiiyang Committee

Open Minutes from Friday, October 29th, at 11:00am EST via Zoom.

I. Opening Prayer

II. General Business

A. Call to Order

This open meeting was called to order at 11:24a.m by Chairperson, Nikki Nelson.

B. Roll Call

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

Attendees: Recorder Julie Wolfe (Council), Liaison Pamela Johnson, intern from natural resources
Natasha

C. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairperson, Chelsea Densmore, made a motion to approve the agenda and Delia Ross seconded that motion.

Nikki Nelson - yes	Chelsea Densmore - yes	Al Metzger - absent	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

None submitted.

E. Reports

None submitted.

III. Old Business

A. Elder's Read to Children

DISCUSSION

Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, introduced the topic and passed it onto Vice-chairperson, Chelsea Densmore. Chelsea explained that the idea behind this is to connect elders with children. We are hoping to find elders to read indigenous children's books via zoom that we can make available for tribal children. With the fall teachings coming up, we have slowed on that to focus on fall teachings, but once they are finished we are hoping to pick up a little more and be promoting that. Chelsea reported finishing a flyer that was posted on the website but she was unsure if she had posted it yet on facebook. Chelsea stated that, "we have been talking about it for a bit, so at this point we are really just gathering names of people that are interested and putting out the information that this is what we are doing this winter and then we are going to pick up more once the fall teachings is done."

Nikki mentioned that we would be doing them in the fall teachings format, where we would create a slideshow of the pages and have the person reading them an image in the corner. Nikki also reiterated that we would be focusing on indigenous children's books and indigenous authors for this event, and trying to create a virtual library of sorts where children can click on a video and have a book read to them by a fellow citizen and elder.

Delia reported having seen it on facebook, and Chelsea thanked her, as she could not recall.

Nikki asked for additional questions or comments, and with none, moved on to the next topic.

B. Fall Teachings

DISCUSSION

Nikki reported having gone over the fall teachings with the committee earlier and reiterated the event, and the focus of the event being around the four day sacred fire and awareness, education, and healing in regards to residential schools. Nikki reported that we would be lighting the four day sacred fire, which would be open to the community, and that Friday through Sunday would be virtual events around residential schools. Nikki discussed the virtual hand drum contest and the hand drum prize. She also mentioned the kids coloring contest, where we are asking the kids to create a poster or image to raise awareness about residential schools and every child matters. Nikki discussed that there were 5 prizes, indigenous children's books, that would be sent to winners. Nikki also mentioned that she had spoken with Noelle Cross with the elders lunch program and that we could approach the elders committee and how neat it would be to take all of the images submitted and put it into a calendar for the elders. Lastly, Nikki covered the ghost supper at the Aki Center.

Chelsea mentioned that with the Ghost Supper, the goal was to take some pictures and videos, as appropriate, and put together a teaching after the fact about Ghost Suppers.

Vicki discussed that with her food teaching she wanted to have an anti frybread teaching that discusses how fry bread doesn't have a place in our culture and how it ties into boarding schools. Vicki reported that she would get something submitted this week.

Nikki apologized for going over things so fast, as she had just gone over it before the meeting as she didn't expect to have a quorum (but at the last second did). Nikki then asked if there were any additional questions or concerns.

Chelsea stated that since Pamela Johnson and Julie Wolfe were present, she wanted to ask if they could help or promote that the committee is in need of jingle dress dancers, firekeepers, participants for the hand drum contest, pictures for the memorial slideshow, and if they could promote the kids contest. Chelsea went on to mention that we still need people to judge the hand drum contest, and if anyone on council is interested in that or with helping with the ghost supper or anything else, we would be interested in the help.

IV. New Business

None

V. Concluding Business

A. Items of information

1. Sacred Medicines Mailing Feedback

Nikki reported having completed the sacred medicines mailing and teaching, and that the zoom session was recorded and uploaded to the website. Nikki stated that 75-80 medicine bundles were sent out and that there were quite a few on a waitlist. Chelsea reported thinking there were 13 people on the waitlist and that she thought there was great participation in this event and that we've had people reach out after the teaching to state that they really liked it, and that a lot of people have viewed the recording as well. Nikki asked for additional questions, and when there was none moved on.

2. Book Club Update

Nikki discussed the book club and that the first book would be the Firekeepers Daughter, which is written by a Sault Ste. Marie tribal citizen. Nikki discussed the first meeting where we discussed timelines and how we wanted to read the book and how often we wanted to meet. Nikki reported that the group decided to meet weekly for 6 weeks to cover the whole book.

----- Signal was lost for just a minute -----

Nikki reported that there were 13-14 people that attended the first meeting and that a few people had reached out ahead of time and stated that while they could make future meetings, this week they couldn't attend. Nikki discussed having to change the date due to some ordering issues early on, but stated that things were going well now.

Chelsea reported that 35 people total signed up and that 20 books were sent out to citizens. Nikki and Vicki mentioned some audio issues from Chelsea and Delia offered to jump in since she attended that meeting. Delia stated that the group discussed the book and how much they were going to be reading. Delia explained that Chelsea was supposed to be sending out a list of how many pages per week would be read, and that they factored in the holidays. Some sounded anxious and excited to learn about the book, and some reported having started. Delia stated she thought there was a good turnout. Chelsea agreed and reiterated the number of people that was previously mentioned above and apologized for the connectivity issues.

3. Facebook

Nikki introduced the topic and explained that the committee created a facebook page to share events from, as it would reiterate that it was the committee sharing the events and it would be a central place for events to be saved. Nikki explained that it wasn't another facebook group for people to join but just a page. Nikki asked for additional questions and there were none.

B. Council Liaison – updates

Nikki introduced the topic and asked if Ms. Johnson had anything she wanted to add under council liaison updates. Pamela Johnson stated that she did not. She stated that she had some concerns about the event tonight, trunk or treat, however, Nikki explained that the trunk or treat event was not run, sponsored by, or had anything to do with the committee. She apologized for interrupting but stated

she just wanted to clarify. Ms. Johnson stated that she hadn't had anyone ask about the fall teachings, so she just asked if we could send updates, and for the committee to keep putting the information out there for members.

Nikki asked if Ms. Wolfe had anything she wanted to add as well. She stated that she knew she wasn't a liaison, but wanted to give her time if she had anything she wanted to add. Julie Wolfe stated that she was just here to support the committee and didn't have anything she wanted to add. Nikki thanked her.

Nikki discussed that she knows things seem rather crunched, however, she reiterated how the committee is still 2 members short and that this has caused some issues making quorum and having enough help for the big events. She reiterated that we appreciate council's support and patience as we figure out how to navigate this new committee.

C. Public Comment Period

Nikki opened the floor for public comment.

Intern, Natasha, from the Natural Resources department explained her research project for her dissertation. Natasha explained that she will be focusing on a "community based research and education proposal that looks at the historical decline of lake sturgeon populations and what contemporary, environmental, and social impacts this has for the Little River Odawa community." She went on to state that she is "concerned with the protection of culturally important species that support tribal health and environmental needs". Natasha stated that "the name of my project is to understand how colonialism has impacted Odawa gender practices and health and how tribal members are responding to that and how they are affected by climate change in the community." Natasha went on to discuss her project in detail and asked the committee if they would share this information with other citizens, and invited them and all to the upcoming community info session at Aki.

Nikki thanked Natasha for sharing and for her good work, and reported an interest in her work and the informational session.

Chelsea recalled that during the budget work session Councilor Johnson had identified a concern with the website, and stated that "year to date, with only $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ the year of having the website up, we've already had 1200 different views. We started the facebook page and one of the biggest benefits of having that facebook page and putting the flyers out through that first helps us to track how many people we're actually reaching with those posts and it will help us figure out when's the best time to post or if we need to repost or push something. But we are definitely doing our best to find new ways to reach the citizens and I feel like we're doing a decent job of trying to get our information up there." Chelsea explained that the website is being updated regularly and all flyers are being uploaded and that she is changing the front page every couple weeks with new events, so she feels things are going well.

Nikki asked if there were any additional questions or comments, but there was not.

VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn this open meeting of the Biskaabiiyang Committee was made by Vice-Chair, Chelsea Densmore, and seconded by Delia Ross, and Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, adjourned the meeting at 12:05p.m. EST, which passed 4 in favor, and 1 absent.

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