

*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>	