

*Little River Band of Ottawa Indians*  
*Biskaabiiyang Committee*

Open Meeting Minutes for Friday, July 30th, 2021 at 11:00am EST via Zoom

**I. Opening Prayer**

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

This open meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.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: Tribal Council Recorder, Julie Wolfe; Tribal Council Liaison, Pam Johson  
Elder Committee Member, Al Metzger, joined at 11:16am.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Vice-Chairperson, Chelsea Densmore, made a motion to approve the agenda and Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, 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. Sacred Medicines Mailing**

***DISCUSSION***

Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, introduced the topic and updated the attendees that the flyer for this mailing had been shared on social media less than a week ago, and there were already over 30 citizens signed up for the mailing. Nikki went on to share that the medicines were all ready to go. The sage and cedar had been gathered on the reservation and the tobacco and sweetgrass had been donated by an elder at gun lake tribe, sugar island, and a LRBOI tribal citizen, Wyatt. Comptroller, Brad Pringle, is working on a purchasing request for the medicine pouches from NOCBAY, a preferred vendor for LRBOI. Nikki went on to state that the small bags had to still be purchased and the cards had to be made, and the committee could reach out to Rebecca Groh and request she put the flyer on the LRBOI facebook page to share the information as well. Nikki mentioned that the committee might want to consider raising the number above 50, since there are already over 30 citizens signed up, and opened the floor for discussion.

Elder Committee Member, Delia Ross, asked if committee members could also request the mailing and Nikki responded that, “absolutely!” as this mailing is available to all citizens.

Nikki asked what the committee thinks about raising the number from 50 to 75, as there is enough medicine for 75, but we would need to increase the number of pouches purchased from NOCBAY.

Secretary, Vicki Wells, stated that she felt we should increase the number to 75, as this is a really important mailing and the more people we can reach, the better.

Nikki agreed and stated that once the mailings started to go out, she felt more people would send in requests as they would hear from friends/family about the package and its contents.

Delia agreed with raising the number to 75, and then inquired as to how many facebook pages the flyer was posted on, as she didn’t see it on all of them. Nikki responded that she was not on all of the facebook pages so she couldn’t share it on every one, but explained how to save the flyer so that Delia could share it on the pages that she saw that didn't already have a post.

Nikki went on to state that the elders nutrition program had reached out regarding this idea and doing it with their elders. Nikki explained that they had already purchased their own pouches and items, and that on August 12th, they are hosting an in person teaching for the elders to make their own medicine pouches. Nikki discussed the benefit of this, stating that the items were purchased with their budget, so more citizens (elders) would be reached, without increasing the budget.

Vice-Chairperson, Chelsea Densmore, agreed with increasing the number from 50-75, and stated that after reviewing the post on facebook, it was only posted 4 days ago and there were already 35/50 spots filled. Chelsea also stated that the discussions have consistently been “let’s start with 50 and do more,” and that depending on how long the process is from Brad to purchasing to NOCBAY to us, we may be asking them to start the process all over again by the time we receive the first batch, because we didn’t order enough. Chelsea explained that she didn’t want to keep bothering purchasing because we didn’t buy enough, however, she didn’t want to order too much and have excess supply either. She stated feeling that at least 75 was very reasonable, and that packaging and then mailing could be done all at once. Chelsea also stated that she sent the flyer to everyone to share online, so that it would be easier.

Nikki discussed wanting to get something to Wyatt to thank him, as he had donated a full paper grocery bag of traditional semaa, which will do all of our mailings and more. Secretary, Vicki Wells, stated that she would reach out to him and get his address so that we can send him something to show our appreciation.

## **B. Summer Workshops and Teachings**

### ***DISCUSSION***

Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, discussed the list of items on the agenda, and referenced that we had just discussed the medicine bag with the elders, which was listed. Nikki went on to state that this teaching was scheduled for Thursday, August 12th, and that she could partner with the Elders Nutrition program and record that teaching for our committee as well, but then felt that because of the time constraints with receiving and then mailing out the packages; it might not work.

Chelsea discussed recording the elders teaching anyway, and then playing it via a live zoom later for the committee's teaching. Chelsea explained that the benefit of this was that the elders may have a lot of insight to add regarding the medicines that would be extremely beneficial to share with the rest of the citizens as well. Chelsea stated that it would have been nice to time them together, but that she felt with covid and the mail system, it would not work out in time, as many members are outside of Michigan. Chelsea offered the option of also recording two teachings, one with the elders and one with the committee and just posting them both, or sharing the video during the live zoom, but stressed the benefit of recording the elders teaching.

Nikki agreed with recording the elders and also stated that recording the elders (instead of live streaming them) might be less intimidating, and they might be more likely to share more of their knowledge.

Nikki also asked Secretary, Vicki Wells, if she still needed a fish for smoking. Vicki stated that she had not and that she was looking for a white fish, walleye, or pike fish, if anyone could find one for her teaching. Vicki also stated that she could make a sumac teaching with the smoked fish as well, as sumac will be ready earlier this year. Vicki also offered to do a chokecherry cooking video as well.

Nikki discussed the elders reading children's book idea, and stated that she was hoping to be recording some elders at the community center next week, as the program was opening back up. Nikki explained that she had some children's books of her own, and that she would try to record different elders reading the books and make a couple of videos to post. Nikki went on to discuss possibly making a facebook post and requesting other elders to read stories, as this can be done from anywhere in the world. Nikki stated that she didn't want anyone to feel like she was just using the elders here in Manistee, but stated that these were just the elders she had the easiest access to.

Delia agreed that we should post something online and open it up to elders everywhere, so they feel that they are a part of what we're doing. Nikki agreed that, just like Delia did for the spring teachings, they can record themselves from anywhere and send it to us. Chelsea agreed and stated that we could make a facebook post asking for elders who would be interested in participating virtually. Chelsea then went on to state that we should be reaching out to elders more anyway, and trying to get them involved more and sharing more of their knowledge and possibly recording them. Delia stated that this would be a great post for the elders facebook page, and Chelsea agreed.

Vicki also jumped in to mention that she would be posting some videos of her indigenous gardening and cooking/recipes, to share.

Nikki agreed and mentioned the boarding schools virtual discussion idea. Nikki asked how everyone felt about moving the discussion to the Fall Teaching, and stated that Susan Cross has agreed to speak for us. She explained that Ms. Cross has a lot of experience working with the Ziibiwing Center, and is highly educated in residential schools and intergenerational trauma, and has a PHD. Nikki suggested that, assuming the fall membership meeting is still in person as planned, there would be a lot of people in person and there could be more of a roundtable discussion to go along with the virtual discussion on zoom, which could encourage participation. Delia agreed, and thought this could work even better. Nikki went on to explain that she liked the idea of bringing the people that are there (physically) together with the people online, and connecting everyone and help people feel more a part of the discussion.

Vicki inquired what the committee thought about us serving indigenous foods at the membership meeting, and Nikki responded that this would be cool.

Tribal Council Recorder, Julie Wolfe, discussed that the Ogema did state at the last tribal council meeting that the Fall Membership Meeting is still going to be in person, and that's what he was planning for. Julie also stated that the Ogema is the one who determines that menu and pays for it, and that big changes would have to go through him and Mary Thomas, unless this was something small the committee was trying to do on the side (or bring in). Vicki asked if that's who she should suggest they contact, because she felt it was a good idea, and Julie responded that it would all depend on budget and staffing but that she just thought the comment would be helpful.

Nikki suggested discussing this more during the fall teachings item (under new business).

Chelsea asked if Al or Delia were on the elders page and if they could share a post inquiring for elders interested in reading children's books on video. Delia stated that she was on the page and could do that, and asked about a date. Nikki responded that the books can be done anytime, as it just needs to be sent in and then we can continuously be posting videos of elders reading to children, and there's no start or end date, necessarily.

Nikki discussed the Indigenous Book Club idea and stated that she attempted to obtain signed copies, but that they were \$34 each, and that it would be better to order them off Amazon for \$11 each. Nikki stated that she can send in a request to Brad Pringle, Comptroller, regarding the purchase and asked if someone could make a flyer to get some signups for the book club. Nikki then asked how many books we would be requesting they purchase (for us to hand out to citizens), and suggested maybe 10-15?

Chelsea responded that the committee definitely needed to decide a timeframe for the book requests and a quantity for purchasing, but stated that she felt it was such a waste to have the books shipped to the government center and then shipped again to households. Chelsea suggested using Amazon Prime's free shipping to send them directly to each person's home, as that would be faster and more cost effective. Chelsea acknowledged that this would be hard, as she knew purchasing would probably not purchase each book individually and type in each person's address information, for 15 books. She then suggested possibly being reimbursed through receipts instead of purchasing, but acknowledged that she didn't think Tribal Council approved that sort of thing.

Nikki mentioned thinking the books were paperbacks and not hardcovers, which would be less weight. Chelsea stated that she didn't think the paperbacks were out yet.

Delia asked if Julie or Pam knew if Council would allow Chelsea to purchase the books through amazon and send them directly to each person, to save on shipping costs which can be high for books.

Chelsea stated that she wasn't sure what council would allow but that, for reference, the books were hardcover for \$10.23 through Amazon, and that the paperbacks were actually more expensive, at \$18 each.

Tribal Councilor and Liaison, Pamela Johnson, stated that she wasn't aware if that was allowed or how that worked yet, but that she would look into it and notify the committee. Chelsea thanked Councilor Johnson, as this would be a large cost save for the committee's budget.

Nikki stated that while Councilor Johnson was inquiring about that, we can start working on a flyer and getting a list of people who are interested in participating.

Chelsea agreed and stated she would work on the flyer and asked if the committee had anything that needed to be done prior to assure purchasing would pay for the books, or if the committee had a timeframe in mind for requests to be in by, and when to start the bookclub.

Vicki stated that the flyer should state that we have a limited number of copies to hand out but that if you already have a copy or purchase your own, you are still able to participate. Nikki agreed.

Nikki suggested looking at the second week of September after kids go back to school.

Chelsea agreed and suggested maybe the week after labor day, so the parents and kids have time to settle into their new schedules before starting. Chelsea also stated that she felt this would be popular, as the Firekeepers Daughter novel was very popular within our tribe. Chelsea asked how many copies the committee was requesting from purchasing for the flyer.

Nikki suggested using a raffle instead of a first come first serve basis (as she had seen another tribe do), where everyone can put their name in and then you randomly pick the names so that it's more fair. Chelsea agreed with that idea, and acknowledged having seen it as well. Chelsea explained that some members may miss out on things if they don't get on facebook as much, or just don't get on the tribal facebook pages as much as others, and explained that while she didn't feel it should be done for everything, a raffle was a good idea because this one had a specific number of participants, and would possibly be popular. Chelsea asked what everyone was thinking for a timeframe of how long the signup (for the raffle) would be?

Nikki responded that it could be put out today and left up until the 20th of August, that would allow for three solid weeks to sign up, and then a couple weeks for the mail to get to them before the book club started. Chelsea agreed that it could be posted Sunday the 22nd and then Monday the 23rd, we could be communicating with purchasing on how the books can be purchased and mailed to citizens.

Nikki responded that, if the committee was able to utilize Amazon's free delivery, we would be able to increase the amount of books we can purchase and allow for more citizens to participate. Delia asked if we had decided how many books we wanted to purchase, and Nikki responded that originally we had said 15, but asked what everyone thought?

Delia stated that if we did it raffle style, we could take the first 25 people and then raffle off 15 books, so that we had a set number to work with. But first we needed to figure out if we could be reimbursed or not, because that could up that number.

Elder Committee Member, Al Metzger, asked if the committee was a non-profit status currently, and if we could obtain the books directly from the publisher, as that could be cheaper.

Nikki responded that she had attempted to do this when she was asking about the signed copies, and had met with the publisher, agent, and author, and their copies were \$34.00 each. On Amazon, the copies were just over \$10. Delia responded that she understood Al's comment because sometimes obtaining books directly from the publisher is more cost effective, as she's done this with textbooks.

Tribal Council Liaison, Pam Johnson, explained that the committee first needed to commit to a budget cost instead of a number of books, and advised them to make sure to check their budget and factor in the other events for the remainder of the year.

Chelsea agreed that it was a good idea to set a set budget cost and explained that 15 books on Amazon would cost \$153.45 and birch books (publisher) would cost \$284.85. This would be an additional \$100, but Chelsea stated that she loved the idea of buying from the publisher and supporting the author, and that she understood that this was what Nikki was trying to do with the signed copies. But that the goal is also to reach as many people as possible. Chelsea then asked what the committee felt was a reasonable amount to budget for this project.

Al stated that maybe the committee could get a case of books for a reduced rate from the publisher (because we're buying in bulk), and asked if we had used our non-profit status as an educational government entity.

Chelsea stated that she did not think we were a non-profit as we are just under Little River, and that she didn't think that they could help us in that way. Nikki agreed that we operate as a committee, and referenced that this was brought up in a work session for the committee (as the kwewok has a non-profit status), but that we didn't currently have a non-profit. Nikki also stated that we could still contact the publisher directly and explain what we are doing and see if they could help, but as of now, we have not used even like 1% of our budget. So we have the funds to buy some more books if that's what everyone wants, and maybe we could buy one or two extra to keep in the government center or community center, but if everyone was on board with looking into buying a case of books, we definitely have that room in our budget.

Chelsea asked what we were looking at for the budget's price point specifically? \$200? \$150? Al stated that he was thinking \$500 because you can't place a value on education, and the more we can reach the better. We aren't selling the books, we're giving them away to educate and come together; the elders and the children.

Nikki agreed and explained that, for those who haven't read the book, it's an incredible book. It helps you relate to yourself; "I think every native person can see themselves in this book somewhere in one of the characters and they can see themselves in a lot of the situations [and the] scenes that are in there. I think it's an incredibly good book for people to have." So whatever everyone else is comfortable with, I'm comfortable with that too, but we're already in August and we haven't used much of our budget at all. So if this is something we all think is important and we want to spend the money on, I am 100% ok with Al's suggestion.

Chelsea agreed that she was supportive as well and that she loved the idea of sending out the books and that she would love to build on this book club idea, and maybe consider sending out something that could include tribal children (in the future). Chelsea asked if Council would approve this number, if it's a reasonable cost, because she was concerned that if we put the number too high, Council would send it back and we would lose time. But explained that she wanted to send out as many as possible, but she wanted to make sure that council would be on board as well.

Vicki explained that she thought we should see if Council will cover it and if not, lower the number, but she agreed with what Al said. She also thought it would be a good idea to send out a cookbook from the sioux chef in the future.

Chelsea stated that if everyone was supportive, did the committee want to have someone make a motion and have a vote on the \$500 and then follow up with Council and go forward with where we would purchase them from and specifics. Chelsea then apologized to Nikki for stepping in, and Nikki stated that she thought that was Chelsea making a motion.

Chelsea made a motion to approve a budget, up to \$500, for purchasing of the Firekeepers Daughter book for an online book club. Al Metzger seconded that motion.

Vice-Chairperson, Chelsea Densmore, made a motion to approve a budget of up to \$500, for purchasing of the Firekeepers Daughter book for an online book club and, Elder Committee Member, Al Metzger, seconded that motion.

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

*Motion approved 5 in favor and 0 against.*

Nikki then explained that the first thing that we would need to do now is to contact Birch Books and explain our situation and see if there is a way that we can get some sort of discount because of what we're doing and how many books we're purchasing.

#### IV. New Business

##### A. Fall Teachings

###### ***DISCUSSION***

Nikki opened the floor for discussion on the fall teachings, and asked for the date.

Chelsea stated that the membership meeting was scheduled for October 9th, and that we were looking at doing it the week before. Chelsea stated that normally it was Thursday/Friday Teachings, because the meeting was normally on Saturday, so Thursday/Friday would be full day teachings and then Friday night was the ogema and councils meet and greets.

Tribal Council Recorder, Julie Wolfe, stated that the Ogema had already stated at a meeting that he would not be having a meet and greet this year. Chelsea asked if Julie knew if Council was planning a meet and greet. Julie explained that they do not have one planned. Chelsea asked if that was because of covid and safety precautions, that the ogema and council cancelled theirs. Julie stated that she did not think Council historically ever had a meet and greet. Chelsea stated that maybe it was called something different because she remembered something, but redirected back to the original conversation about dates and stated that she felt the committee should stick closer to what was previously done.

Nikki agreed and asked if everyone was okay with Thursday/Friday.

Vicki agreed but stated that it would need to be before 2:00pm.

Nikki responded that she understood that Vicki may need to go to work, and explained that she would be available the entire time to fill the gaps and mentioned that Chelsea had said she would as well. Chelsea agreed that she would be available to help out both days, but that she would probably have her boys with her.

Al asked how many days the committee was looking at, and asked if it was for 4 days?

Chelsea said she thought normally it was 2-3 days of teachings; Thursday and Friday, or possibly Wednesday through Friday. Chelsea explained that this year is especially exciting because we are able to do some in person stuff, but still video (hopefully live-stream) everything across the tribe and engage more citizens. Chelsea then stated that we need to decide what we're doing and when, so we can start conversations with IT or Council to discuss borrowing a hotspot to use. She then asked Al how long he thought it should be?

Al stated that he was thinking four; Thursday through Sunday, because they used to let the fire go out Sunday afternoon. Al also stated that he wasn't sure if some presenters would go virtual, and asked for more information.

Nikki responded that this was why we're discussing it. We hadn't planned anything yet, and that's what we are hoping to do now.

Chelsea explained that she has only attended some of the teachings and has never heard about the planning aspect, so Al probably knew better about when the fire was started and how long it went.

Al stated that typically the fire was started on Thursday and stayed lit until Sunday, and that there were no teachings on Saturday, because of the teaching, but that the fire would stay available for members. Al explained that sometimes, sitting at the fire and listening, would sometimes turn into a better discussion than the teachings.

Vicki agreed and stated that on that last day it would be good to keep the fire going, because with everything going on from covid and the boarding schools and everyone we've lost, it would be healing for people to go and put their semaa down in the fire and try to heal.

Al agreed that we could designate Sunday as a memorial/remembrance day to offer that semaa for the ones who walked on and never made it home. Al then restated that typically it was Thursday to Sunday for the fire though.

Vicki agreed with doing it for the four days and offered to do some teachings in person and virtual, and stated that as long as she knew everything in advance, she could take the day, too.

Nikki stated that we could all reach out, but asked Al if he could contact some firekeepers to keep the fire going, as he knew so many in the community who might help. Nikki explained that we needed to get that group confirmed ahead of time because she would hate to have someone get stuck sitting there for two days straight. Al agreed and stated that he would reach out to some people, as he had 6-7 guys he could think of off the top of his head. Al also stated that he thought we would have more people this year because the ability to attend teachings has been so limited over the last year and this could be a really good opportunity to heal.

Nikki agreed that we have the potential to have a lot more people this year, and that's why she feels it's important to have a good 3-4 days. Nikki then asked what kind of things we were hoping to cover in the teachings.

Al discussed that this would be a good opportunity for Vicki to showcase her skills for the feast.



Vicki agreed that she could show people how to get the lymph nodes out of the hindquarters of the deer, and that she could bring in a leg and show people how to find that and then use it to make a stew with wild rice.

Al agreed, and mentioned discussing the importance of how our medicines are out there, and having a feast together to share with our ancestors.

Vicki also offered to demonstrate how to make cedar tea, and referenced when she had helped her brother who was sick and drank cedar tea.

Al asked if we were looking from Thursday to Sunday?

Chelsea agreed and asked if Al meant that Thursday and Friday would be more structured teachings and then Saturday was the meeting (so nothing), and then keeping the fire Thursday through Sunday. Chelsea then asked if Al wanted teachings on Sunday as well? Delia responded that we were using that as a memorial day, or a day of healing.

Al responded that, for him, that would be a whole weekend of healing. Al then discussed that he is a first generation boarding school survivor. "My Mom attended boarding school, and what was lost, what she lost, affected me. I consider myself the generation that needs to heal for her, because she didn't have the ability, and I need to do this for that seven generations that are coming behind me. That's how I view this personally, and if we can incorporate the whole weekend for that process, and have a big closing on Sunday would be awesome."

Nikki stated that she wasn't sure if Al was on earlier, but we had discussed moving the virtual boarding school discussion to the fall teachings, and asked what Al thought about having Susan Cross and maybe some survivors and those who want to share and educate us, and to start that off on Thursday and to keep that as a theme throughout the weekends teachings, and honor all of these people.

Al stated that he thought that would be awesome; dedicate the whole weekend to what was lost and stolen and what we need to regain.

Nikki explained that we could honor them all weekend and then end on Sunday with a memorial because we would have the weekend to learn and remember, and that we should have a parting feast on Sunday to feast those spirits before we leave.

Al responded that typically we would go down and eat with the elders, but stated that he thought we should feast wherever the fire is, so that we don't have to burden the elders. The participants could bring in those feast foods and designate different clans each day, or ask for volunteers. But to keep socially and around the fire.

Nikki agreed and explained that when she did something there before, she was able to use the pavilion and tarps to put on the side to keep warm and have enough space.

Al explained that we would be feasting with our ancestors all weekend long.

Nikki asked if everyone was ok with making the weekend geared towards remembering the residential boarding school children and their families. Delia stated that she liked that idea and Vicki stated that she supported that.

Delia asked if we would consider a breakfast for the members, like her, who are coming in out of town, and stated that she thought that would increase participation. Vicki stated that she would help with that and had quail eggs.

Al asked if the fall membership meeting was only on Saturday, and Nikki agreed that it was only on Saturday and that the Ogema wasn't having a meet and greet. Al asked if the Ogema was having breakfast Sunday, and stated that he didn't want anything to conflict with that. Delia stated that she didn't think breakfast was offered on Sunday, and Nikki stated that we could check with Mary Thomas.

Nikki discussed involving the kids, and the importance of having the kids there. Al stated that, "most definitely, we have pow wow grounds that haven't been utilized in over a year," Nikki stated that we could have a small dance, and she was already imagining kids dancing by the fire when Al was talking earlier.

Al stated, "why not, Saturday night, have a round dance out at the pow wow grounds." Nikki agreed with that idea. Vicki stated that she would run over in her chef coat and join for a few minutes.

Nikki stated that she thought we had a good idea of how we want the weekend to go, and to keep thinking of activities or teachings for the weekend. Nikki also stated that she'd love to get a hold of Kenny and involve some of the language, and asked the committee to keep thinking of specifics and that we have time to plan.

## **V. Concluding Business**

### **A. Items of information**

1. New Liaisons: Gary DiPiazza, Ron Wittenberg, Pam Johnson

Nikki explained that we still have Councilors DiPiazza and Wittenberg as liaisons, but that we had a new one joining us; Pam Johnson. Nikki welcomed Pam and asked if she had anything she wished to share under council updates.

### **B. Council Liaison – updates**

Councilor Johnson stated that there were no updates since the last work session.

Nikki asked if Councilor Johnson had any suggestions with the fall teachings.

Pam stated that she was a little worried about the timing, but that it would be fine to do it for the whole weekend because people can come and go as they want to and visit and get their stories and share. She explained that down the road, we'll have to have another one but that this'll work and it'll be an opening because there will definitely be a lot more. Nikki thanked Pam for her comments.

### **C. Public Comment Period**

Nikki opened the floor for public comment.

Chelsea stated that she did, and that Little River came in 3rd for the Michigan Indian Family Olympics, and that she thought that was awesome. Nikki stated yes, that they had great representation this year.

Vicki stated that she was still looking for a beaver if anyone had one, as she was hoping to make Beaver tacos. Nikki stated that she might be able to get her a frozen beaver, and Vicki agreed. Vicki also offered to do Beaver taco's (or a beaver dish) for the fall teachings/feast.

Nikki asked if anyone else had any comments.

Pam mentioned looking at the committee's website and hadn't noticed any updates lately, and asked for that to be kept updated. She also asked if the committee had put any feelers out about the book club or what kind of books, because that might help figure out how many books the committee might need. Nikki stated she did not. Pam discussed that there might be a lot of people joining that already have the book but still want to join, so it might be beneficial to put out feelers first. Nikki agreed and stated that we normally have a signup, prior to purchase, so as to not purchase more than is needed. Pam asked if the signup was on the website and Nikki stated that it was not created yet.

Chelsea stated that she would post the sacred medicines mailing flyer on the website, as that isn't posted yet, and thanked Councilor Johnson.

Nikki agreed and Vicki discussed that, later down the road if the book club does well, we could do braiding sweetgrass, which is another good book. She also mentioned that she was communicating with shermans crew to see if she can get wholesale books off him or get some food teaching material, and that she would let the committee know. She also stated that she would start updating the website soon with cooking videos, but that she had been busy with work.

Delia discussed looking into more titles for the future, that would be good reading for our people; childrens, teens, and adult books. Delia discussed the importance of reading, especially with youth.

Nikki agreed, and stated that if this was something we wanted to continue doing, she would look into a grant through the Laura Bush Foundation, or maybe ask Lyle his thoughts. Delia agreed but advised looking closely at the guidelines. She also discussed looking into more education grants.

## VI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn this open meeting of the Biskaabiiyang Committee was made by Vice-Chair, Chelsea Densmore, and seconded by Secretary, Vicki Wells, and Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, adjourned the meeting at 12:48p.m. EST, which passed 5 in favor, and 0 against.

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