

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

Open Minutes from Friday, October 1st, at 11:00am EST via Zoom.  
This meeting was postponed from the September 24th, 2021 meeting.

**I. Opening Prayer**

**II. General Business**

**A. Call to Order**

This open meeting was called to order at 11:11a.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: none

**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**

Vice-Chairperson, Chelsea Densmore, made a motion to approve the minutes from June, July, and August, 2021; 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>	

*Minutes approved 4 in favor and 1 absent.*

**E. Reports**

None submitted.

**III. Old Business**

**A. Book Club**

***DISCUSSION***

Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, introduced the topic and passed it onto Vice-chairperson, Chelsea Densmore. Chelsea reported that she thought the book club was going well, and that there were

currently 16 citizens signed up for the book and 27 people total signed up for the book club. Chelsea reported wanting to give it a few more days to see if anyone else wanted to sign up and that she would order the books next week. Chelsea stated that she would update the facebook posts that orders would be placed soon (possibly Monday) and that they would be starting the book club in two weeks. Chelsea went on to state that Tribal Council and Citizens seem supportive of the book club and that its going well.

Nikki asked if the books would be purchased via Amazon and directly sent to citizens, which Chelsea agreed. Nikki then commented that the books should be sent out quickly because of prime shipping, and Chelsea agreed and stated that it should be well before people need it for the book club.

Nikki referenced previous discussions that the committee budgeted the purchase of 20 books, and stated that since only 16 were signed up, she wondered if the committee should purchase the full 20 and use the remainders for citizens who may not have heard about the book club yet, or for future prizes or giveaways. Chelsea agreed that this was a good idea, and stated that extra copies could also be used for the potential library that had been discussed by the committee. Nikki stated that an extra copy could be used as a prize for the fall teachings, if needed. Delia agreed and stated that we had previously discussed giveaway ideas and that these would be perfect. Vicki agreed as well, and stated that she thought it was a great idea and that it was an awesome book.

Vicki referenced knowing another member who may want to sign up and that she was excited for the book club and Nikki agreed, and stated that it would be a good event. Chelsea agreed and stated that the benefit of the virtual book club is that people can sign up even after the first meeting, and there's potential to build on the number of participants.

## **B. Elder's Read to Children**

### ***DISCUSSION***

Chairperson, Nikki Nelson, introduced the next item and notified the committee that she had completed the slide and recording for one children's book about a water walker. Nikki referenced a previous discussion where this would be a continuous event, that would go throughout the year as able.

Delia asked about creating the flyer and what information should be on it regarding dates, or if it should coincide with the fall teachings. Nikki stated that she felt this event should be ongoing and could be something for kids and families to look forward to. Chelsea agreed and stated that there could be a children's section on the website to host all of the book recordings and potential links to activities, coloring pages, etc.

## **C. Fall Teachings**

### ***DISCUSSION***

Nikki opened the floor for discussion of the fall teachings, and referenced the date change (Thursday Nov. 4th - Sunday Nov. 7th) and the center theme of honoring and remembering the boarding schools survivors and the victims, and families.

Chelsea screenshared an overview of the teachings that had been discussed previously with the committee.

Nikki updated the committee that she had heard back from Lisa Martin and received confirmation that she would be able and available for a teaching that day. Nikki stated that she is still waiting to hear from Isaac because of the date change, and that she would follow up today.

Nikki discussed the readings (children's books) and stated that she would like to make a slideshow so that there's only the slides on the screen share so that it's easier for virtual attendee's to see, and asked if we were trying to get someone to read or if one of us were going to read the books. Delia asked Nikki to review what she said, as she didn't hear and Nikki did. Nikki asked if we were trying to get someone to read the books, and Chelsea stated that she had written down elders but thought it could've been referencing the elders books and not the fall teachings reading's. Chelsea also referenced needing people to do the morning prayers and the opening/closing prayers. Nikki stated that she needed to speak with Al as he had previously mentioned Jimmy Mitchell was potentially doing the opening prayer and lighting the fire, but she wasn't sure because she hadn't spoken with him and he hadn't been at the meeting. Chelsea agreed that someone needed to speak with Al as they were unsure of how many firekeepers there even were, especially with the date change. Nikki stated that she had 3 firekeepers, but that she wasn't aware of who Al had signed up and what their availability was to tend the fire. Nikki also stated that she wasn't sure if Al had even realized what the new date was, because he missed the meetings and hadn't been active in any communication with the committee since the date changed. Nikki stated she would follow up with Al regarding their questions.

Nikki referenced speaking with Al regarding morning prayers, as he may have already found people, but stated that we could reach out to some elders to help. Delia referenced that last time it was difficult to find people to do the prayer as some of the men felt it needed to be an elder, and that some didn't contact her back, and offered that maybe the firekeepers could do the morning prayers. Nikki stated that she would follow up.

Nikki updated the committee that she was meeting with Suzanne Cross this weekend to discuss her teaching and make confirmations. Nikki discussed the indigenous foods teaching with Vicki and stated that she was just planning to help Vicki with food discussions as related to boarding schools and that she would let Vicki take the reins with all of the food teaching. Vicki reported that she would have more details planned in the next week for the committee.

Nikki asked if we were planning to use tribal council's zoom again, and Chelsea explained that because we are asking for all Thursday, Friday, and part of Saturday and Sunday, it might be a lot to ask. Chelsea also stated that because some of it will be in person, we may need a hotspot from the tribe, which she felt would not be hard to get because IT said no one was using them. She also thought maybe getting two, one for Aki and the fire and one for another spot. Nikki asked how many people could be on the current zoom and Chelsea explained that she thought it was 300 because it was through her college and that EMU accounts hosted up to 300 but that we had never tested it. Chelsea went on to state that something to discuss would be to potentially talk to IT about having our own zoom through the tribe, and to work that into our own budget. Vicki agreed.

Nikki discussed planning a virtual showing of Indian Horse and having a trigger warning discussion prior to showing. She went on to state that you wouldn't need to have a discussion after because you could open the chat during the movie so that people could discuss it as they want. Chelsea asked if there was anything that needed to be done license-wise, and Nikki stated that everything she's seen has been fine as long as you're not charging to view it. Vicki suggested also showing the gathering movie regarding virtual foods at some point, and Nikki agreed.

Chelsea stated she had another question, and explained that to her understanding, if you owned a movie, showed a movie, and you didn't record the movie, it's fine. But would that still be ok via Netflix? She explained that she was sure that the people who made the movie would probably not come after a culture committee but that she was trying to check and see if the movie needed to be purchased ahead of time. Nikki stated that it was on Netflix and confirmed which movie it was for Chelsea.

Nikki moved on to the language fun event and discussed that we would have activities and some easy language stuff to learn, but that she would also discuss how our language was stolen from us and boarding schools, and the effect it had on our language. She stated she would cover numbers 1-10, basic colors, and some simple phrases. Nikki referenced some resources she is aware of, and that we could put a link for people to print out before/after or during. Chelsea stated that the link could be kept up on the children's section of the website. Nikki referenced a virtual kids kit that was floating around online and asked if anyone had saved it and Chelsea stated she did. Nikki explained that the creator specifically asked for people to share those and put them in the hands of children, and that as long as no one made money off it, they wanted it shared. Chelsea stated she shared it with the committee. Vicki stated that as long as it was along the lines of what that creator wanted, then she liked it. Nikki stated that we could use this for the kids coloring contest. For the hand drum contest prize, Nikki offered to donate a hand drum kit, and Chelsea agreed that a hand drum would be a great prize. Nikki asked if the coloring pages link could be posted ahead of time so that people can download it as they want it.

Nikki then stated that a good idea would be to purchase children's books as a prize for the coloring contest, and Chelsea stated that she liked the idea of prizes being indigenous children's books.

Nikki discussed doing a jingle dress virtual dance from wherever you are, and stated she would reach out to some people.

Regarding the Ghost supper, Nikki referenced a question on the overview document Chelsea had about food costs. Nikki explained that every person would bring a dish to share and their own personal food bundle so there would be no food costs or paper plates needed, as they could use the stuff at Aki if needed. Nikki went over what a ghost supper entails, and offered to make a large pot of traditional corn soup. Nikki reiterated the importance of bringing a small dish, as you're not allowed to throw any food away at a ghost supper. Chelsea responded that she understood how a ghost supper runs, but she wasn't sure if things might be different because of covid restrictions. Such as if we would supplement the food for attendee's, and the attendee's would bring a tiny bit of their loved ones favorite food just for feasting their loved one and the fire. Nikki stated she understood and offered that we could discuss that, and precautions, such as us dishing out the foods with gloves and masks; etc. Nikki also stated that she would need to look into what executive restrictions are effective because of covid closer to the date.

Nikki discussed Sunday's memorial slideshow, morning prayer, and closing presentation. Nikki stated everyone should reach out to family, friends, citizens, on facebook, etc.; and see if we can get digital copies of images for the slideshow.

Nikki then went on to state that Isaac Murdoch could be moved to Sunday and do the final teaching, which would offer a different presenter each day. Vicki and Delia agreed, as did Chelsea. Nikki then went on to suggest asking Al if he and the community drum (Ron, Brenden, Don) would be able to get out the big drum and do a remembrance song, and a traveling song, to tell the spirits you've called that they don't need to stay there.

Chelsea asked if there would need to be an honorarium for the community drum. Nikki stated that normally an honorarium is asked for the pow wow and round dance, etc. because they are there for a long time, but for this, it's just a couple songs. So she would need to speak with Al in order to see what's appropriate. Chelsea agreed that the money was in the budget and that she didn't want to offend anyone or do anything wrong, so she would want Al to chime in.

Chelsea discussed the budget of \$3,000 and explained that we had the plenty of budget left to do honorariums if needed.

Nikki asked if there were any other questions. Vicki asked if there would be a speaker for the foods teaching, and Nikki said no, but that she thought about reaching out to Daisy to see if she'd like to join us for the discussion about boarding schools and food, because she was a boarding school survivor. Vicki agreed. Chelsea stated that she thought it would be amazing to have an actual boarding school survivor to speak on the foods because it would help people remember how recent boarding schools were, and felt that they could have a lot to offer the discussion. Vicki agreed and said Daisy was awesome.

#### **IV. New Business**

None

#### **V. Concluding Business**

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

##### **1. Sacred Medicines Mailing update**

Nikki stated the sacred medicines mailing was sent out last week, as she had dropped it off at the government center on Tuesday or Wednesday, so they should be on their way. Nikki mentioned the live zoom presentation she would be doing on the 17th to correspond with the sacred medicines mailing. Chelsea confirmed that there are currently four on the waitlist and six held back for presenters gifts.

Nikki stated that 80 had been mailed out and that they were mailed as kits, however, for the presenters, we should put them together. Chelsea stated she was coming up soon and could help and Vicki stated she could help as well. Nikki asked if anyone would want to bead a little flower or something on them, and Chelsea agreed that a small something would be so easy as you could just bead it on and sew the kit after.

**B. Council Liaison – updates**

There were no council liaisons in attendance, however, Chelsea discussed her and Nikki's attendance at the committee's budget hearing and how Council had requested a list of events for the next year that they were hoping to do with the 2022 budget. Nikki agreed and asked if everyone would stay after to quickly mention something from the budget work session, and all agreed.

**C. Public Comment Period**

Nikki opened the floor for public comment but there was none.

**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 12:20pm. 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>	