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Little River Band of Ottawa Indians



Aki Community Center

Manistee, Michigan 49660

Elders Monthly Meeting

February 4, 2023

Roll Call

Quorum: Chairperson Jessica Steinberg called meeting to order at 1:01 pm. All committee members were present except for Sandy Mezeske.

Jessica Steinberg-yes	Chuck Fisher-yes	Sandy Mezeske-absent
Tammy Burmeister-yes	Marcella Leusby-yes	

Quorum: 4-1-0-0

Approval of Agenda: Chuck Fisher made a motion to approve the agenda and Marcella Leusby seconded, all in favor.

Jessica Steinberg-yes	Chuck Fisher-yes	Sandy Mezeske-absent
Tammy Burmeister-yes	Marcella Leusby-yes	

Quorum: 4-1-0-0

Approval of Minutes: Chuck Fisher made a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes and Marcella Leusby seconded, all in favor.

Jessica Steinberg- yes	Chuck Fisher-yes	Sandy Mezeske- absent
Tammy Burmeister- yes	Marcella Leusby-yes	

Quorum: 4-1-0-0

Reports: Chuck Fisher talked about the upcoming MIEA meeting in July that the Tribe will be hosting. He said that Tribal Council agreed to sponsor in conjunction with the Pow Wow. The MIEA meeting has a standard agenda that is followed. It will start on Sunday, July 16th and run through Tuesday, July 18th. The meeting will start on Sunday afternoon attending the Pow Wow. On Sunday evening, there will be a prescheduled meeting held by the delegates. The Tribe will run the meeting on Monday and Tuesday. There is a business meeting and auction that takes place throughout the conference. The auction helps to build funds for the scholarship given.

Jessica Steinberg said she did reach out to the National Indian Health Board, National Indian Housing Authority and the National Congress of Indians.

Julie Wolfe asked if the MIEA Board helps with the meeting. Chuck said they help with the donated auction items and business meeting.

Chuck said he is looking for at least six volunteers to help the Elders committee with the planning. Chuck said he will be the contact for the volunteers. There will be breakout sessions and a presentation done by the Tribe. Each Tribe will be responsible to pay their registration fees.

The following Elders volunteered to help: John Pabami, Al Metzger, Al Hardenburgh, Jessica Steinberg, Marcella Leusby and Tammy Burmeister

Chuck mentioned the MIEA vacancy that we need to vote on. Al Hardenburgh asked if you had to be a delegate to attend a

meeting and Chuck stated yes. He mentioned that the next meeting is in April in Hannahville.

Al Metzger asked about holding this meeting virtually through ZOOM. Chuck said that it can be talked about for the future. He said no Tribe has ever done this before but it could be checked into.

Jessica Steinberg talked about the Tribal Council work session that was held on Monday, January 16th and the discussion that was held about the Elders committee group activities. It was stated that this group is becoming more political. It was said that this committees function is to nurture and cultivate teachings. Jessica was told that all the committee had to do to fund the meal at the monthly meeting was to ask Tribal Council for a supplement. Jessica said you are never to humiliate in public but take them aside to teach them. She read the statement from Shannon Crampton that she received.

Jessica Steinberg thanked the elected officials who to the invitation to attend the Elders meeting. She said if she has offended anyone or said anything inappropriate she will own it and correct it.

Ogema Romanelli also talked about the work session and said the Elders are a political group. The Tribal Constitution allows for them to vote. He said it would have been more respectful to come to the Elders and explain concerns.

Jessica Steinberg thanked the Ogema for speaking personally on these issues. She said in the future we will come together to discuss any issues there may be.

Gary DiPizza said that he hopes the person that does the name calling and belittling would follow the seven grandfather teachings.

Al Metzger asked to bring it down and the meeting moved on.

- 1. Old Business:** *Jessica Steinberg talked about the open MIEA position and how we will be voting on this. Cards were passed out to everyone so that they could vote. Currently, Chuck Fisher is the Veteran on the Board and Al Hardenburgh is the alternate. A delegate needs to be nominated.*

John Pabami and Al Hardenburgh were both nominated for the delegate position. A vote was taken by Tribal Elders and Al Hardenburgh was chosen. Al Hardenburgh had 15 votes and John Pabami had 8 votes. Three were three Elders that volunteered to be vote counters (Al Metzger, Darlene Friedel and Dale Chandler) and Gary DiPiazza was the Tribal Council liaison.

Since Al Hardenburgh held the position of alternate and now was voted in for the delegate, the alternate position is vacant. John Pabami was nominated for the alternate. A vote was taken by the Tribal Elders and John Pabami was chosen for the alternate. John Pabami had 17 votes. Three were three Elders that volunteered to be vote counters (Al Metzger, Darlene Friedel and Dale Chandler) and Gary DiPiazza was the Tribal Council liaison.

- 2. New Business:** *It was asked about the status of the work sessions on the development of an Elder Committee in Muskegon. It was discussed that this hasn't been approved only in discussion. Elders were concerned because our Tribe is here in Manistee so there should be no need for one in Muskegon nor anywhere else such as Wisconsin. The Elders budget would have to be split between the two committees if this should happen. How would these two committees communicate on things was asked. It was suggested that a committee member from Muskegon would have to attend in Manistee to report on things. It was suggested that changing of meeting place could be an idea to look at. It was mentioned that the Elders committee has a committee ordinance and workplan that has to be followed so this would also have to be followed if an Muskegon Elders committee was developed. A meal was also discussed and how that would work. Julie Wolfe mentioned*

that the Title IV Elders Meals program does include the 9 county service area so having meals in Muskegon would not be a problem. Jessica Steinberg thanked Julie for the update. John Pabami gave an update on the Elders coats and that he could order them for Elders if they'd like. Jessica Steinberg said she ordered one and it was about \$80. Al Metzger asked if Elders, Citizens or Spouse could be put on jacket.

Elected Officials Updates: Jessica Steinberg read what Shannon Crampton (Speaker) email to her.

Ogema Romanelli gave an update on the Elders conference in November and the good time that was had. The proposed Muskegon casino project extension date for the Governor to vote on is February 9th. It's not dead in the water just waiting for a response.

- 3. Public Comment: Al Metzger informed everyone that the Cultural committee is having teachings the end of March and is asking for Elders input. He said there will be a Friday evening dinner to be provided by the Elders. He said there are only three Cultural committee members now and they are in need of fire keepers. Chuck Fisher talked about cultural leave being looked at. He said that canvas tarps have been purchased for the outside of the lodge and replacing planks. There is a work session with Tribal Council to discuss about putting cameras out there because of vandalizing.**

Eugene Magnuson gave an update about the Manistee downtown project. He said the reason for the project pause has to do with cost increase for materials and finance rates. He said they are looking on other ventures such as affordable housing, food trucks to occupy the vacant property, green space, roof top bar, conference center and other things. They are waiting back on the studies that needed to be done for future development.

Jessica Steinberg said for future discussion she would like us to talk about: how to sign up for Medicare and the enrollment process.

***Chuck Fisher said for future discussion he'd like to talk about:
affordable housing, AirB&B, rent for a lot.***

4. Next Meeting: Saturday, March 4, 2023.

***5. Adjourned: Jessica Steinberg motioned to adjourn the meeting
at 3:08 pm. Chuck Fisher made the motion to adjourn and
Marcella Leusby seconded. All in favor.***