

November 8, 2017
3:00pm
SOC Conference Room

VIRGINIA INDIAN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Members Present

Chief Lynette Allston, Chair
Cami Adkins
Dr. Gregg Kimball (on behalf of Dr. Sandra Treadway)
Dr. Margaret Huber
Julie Langan
Leah Dozier Walker (on behalf of Dr. Steve Staples)

Members Absent

Dr. Ashley Atkins Spivey

Staff Present

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Benjamin Hermerding, Records Manager

Call To Order

Chairwoman Lynette called the meeting of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board (the Board) to order at 3:04pm.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Kimball moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Adkins seconded the motion. The Board approved the agenda on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair remarked that the last meeting's minutes did not include that the Council on Indians (the Council) was disbanded in 2011, which could confuse a reader who was not aware that body was disbanded. She asked that this meeting's minutes explicitly state that the Council was disbanded.

Ms. Walker moved to approve the last meeting's minutes. Dr. Huber seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes on a voice vote.

Old Business

The board discussed the summary of interstate tribal recognition provided by Secretary Thomasson's office. After a brief discussion, the board decided they would not include language in the criteria that forbids interstate tribes.

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New Business

Criterion 3

The board continued discussion about criterion 3.

The board agreed that the bulleted “documents that will be considered” in criterion 3 should be retained.

Ms. Walker stated she thought the phrase “many of which have been published” is confusing. Dr. Kimball explained that the phrase is so petitioners know they can use published copies, not just originals. The board agreed that the idea should remain and the wording changed. The board tasked the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth with coming up with a better phrase.

After acknowledging that it was slightly out-of-order, Ms. Walker expressed that she believed that six copies of the documents in the bullets is too burdensome on the petitioners. She recommended that the petitioners be allowed to upload petition documents online. The Chair concurred but warned that there are privacy concerns with individuals’ genealogy. The board agreed they would consider their options when working on the procedure for petitioning.

Criterion 4

The board agreed that “and particularly its Tribal Council” in the first sentence should be struck, “but are not limited to” should be added to first sentence in the second paragraph, and “all” should be struck from the first bullet.

The board digressed to discuss criterion 1 again. They agreed that “Petitioner shall submit a narrative to explain the lack of continuous American Indian identification,” from 01 NCAC 15 .0212(1), should be added to the end of the first paragraph of criterion 1.

Criterion 5

Ms. Walker asked if groups can prove “cultural cohesion.” Dr. Huber explained that there are anthropological ways to prove cultural cohesion.

The board agreed to change the phrase “group has been socially distinct from other cultural groups” to “group has been socially and culturally cohesive Indian community” and to add “businesses, cultural groups” to the organizations that show cultural cohesion.

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The board agreed to add a bullet that says “Any other documented traditions, customs, legends, etc. associated with the group.”

The board agreed to the following recommended changes: removing the first paragraph, adding “but are not limited to” after “documents that will be considered include,” removing “(as opposed to “white” and “colored” schools)” from the third bullet, removing “separate” from the forth bullet, removing “more” and “than with non-Indians” from the sixth bullet, and changing “must” to should in the final paragraph.

Criterion 6

Ms. Walker stated she thought the criterion was extraneous. The Chair explained the historical importance of incorporation for Virginia Indian tribes. The board then discussed governance and its importance to American Indian tribes.

The board agreed to the following changes to this criterion: changing “tribe” to “tribes(s)” and adding “but are not limited to” after “documents that will be considered include.”

The board discussed officially naming themselves since they were operating under the informal name “Virginia Indian advisory board.” They discussed their power to do so and discussed some names, but they did not conclude on a name.

Procedure for Petitioning

Ms. Walker asked, and the board concurred, that the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s office revises basic information on the procedure for the current board and current technology. The board also asked that office prepare a document showing the complete changes to the criteria.

Public Comment Period

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Chief Allston entertained a motion to adjourn, which was provided by Ms. Langan. Dr. Huber seconded the motion.

The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 4:43.