



The Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Conference Call/Virtual (COVID-19 protocols)

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Monday, June 14, 2022

Meeting Minutes

I. Commissioner Attendance:

Donna Abbott	Member	N
Sherry L. Ayers	Madam Chair	Y
Claude A Bowen	Vice Chair	Y
Peter Brooks	Member	Y
Kerry Hawk-Lessard	Member	Y
Tiara Thomas	Member	Y
Stanley Thompson	Member	Y
Guy Wells	Member	Y

GOCI/MCIA Staff:

E. Keith Colston, Director Ethnic Commissions/Admin. Director of MCIA
Cheryl Madigan, Project Coordinator – Ethnic Commissions of GOCI

Guests:

Lynne Bulhack, Virginia Busby, Karen, Council, Chief Jessie Swann, Michelle Swann, Stephanie Sperling
Rosana Swann

II. Call to Order and Welcome Remarks – MCIA Sherry Ayers

Vice Chair Claude Bowen called meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner Peter Brooks

III. Guest Presenters:

a. Dr. Angela Stoltz – College of Education – University of MD, College Park

i. Think Tank – Update on American Indian Activities

Commissioner Kerry Hawk Lessard asked Dr Stoltz, are there any faculty identified or disciplines that have been identified regarding the minor that's being proposed. Dr Stoltz informed that there is Dr. Bayley Marquez that teaches two classes already. One of them is like an intro to native American studies, and then there's a secondary course that she teaches. Dr Stoltz has two courses that she would propose as well but there are faculty in different units, which includes the Architect School of Architecture. In the school of Policy and Public Health, there are several different courses she thinks may be a fit, but they will have to meet with every single unit.

Webinar (free) – Robert Lee/Tristan AhTone Talk – 09/28/2022 – [Contact: anahiesp@imd.edu](mailto:anahiesp@imd.edu).

b. Maria Day–Director, Special Collections, Conservation & Library Services–MD State Archives

They have come up with the name of the new website that they have been working on. It's an indigenous name and it's going to be called “**Mayis**” which we understand from the person who submitted this idea is that it sourced from a dialect book, and likely had a lot of the Algonquin languages that were spoken on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. The meaning is “path or to go on”.

c. Dr. Katherine Sterner – Asst. Professor, Dept. of Sociology & Criminal Justice, Towson University

Commissioner Peter Brooks asked if when artifacts are found in the State of Maryland, are they to be turned over to the State. Dr. Sterner replied that the Historic preservation depends on where the artifacts are found. So, if they're on state lands, then they're the States, if they're on private property, they legally belong to that property owner, accepting some specific no free in our area items that sort of thing. Commissioner Brooks second question was, do we have enough in archaeology in the Baltimore Museum of Art? Should they raise awareness to Dr. Sterner's program. He was comparing Baltimore's Museum to Wilmington, Delaware. Dr. Sterner still needs to contact the Baltimore Museum and will add it to her list.

IV. Administrative Report – Administrative Director E. Keith Colston:

Director Colston attended 23 meetings, 13,000 correspondences sent and two trainings. He was a part of two trainings that were specific to the LGBTQ+ Community.

Details on Meetings:

a: University of Maryland College Park - June 2, 2022. The meeting was with Dr. Perrillo in reference to the American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff that will take place on November 1, 2022. Most likely the event will occur early in the morning.

b: Loyola University – they have requested a follow-up meeting on June 13, 2022. This will consist of the topics of land acknowledgments and ongoing activities to be worked with in conjunction in partnership with the MCIA.

c: Maryland Nonprofits - Had point of contact, Mr. Connor Wolf. How we can engage and support them in providing more information to our tribal communities who have nonprofit status, 501C programs or any other activities that they may be able to assist with which could be quite beneficial to all our tribal communities who have such entities in their communities.

d: Director Colston spoke with Dr. Rule, who is the individual who is part of the guide to the Indigenous of Baltimore, which they had a great kickoff, that we were able to be a part of. She is now working with other individuals on a indigenous guide to DC. He looks forward to providing her with any contact information that we normally are asked about concerning individuals who may be able to assist her, and individuals that she's working with.

V. Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Updates:

a: Maryland 250 Commission

On, June 6, 2022. Governor Hogan was a special guest speaker at the meeting. He will be advising the MCIA to create a working group concerning the Maryland 250 Commission and its events that will lead up to 2026, as well as setting up future meetings with our tribal communities. Specifically, would like tribal historians to add to the information that we have been collecting.

b: Director Colston commented on the passing of Chairman Henry Kim with the Governor's Office on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Also, the passing of Administrative Director Christina Poy's father.

c: Covid-19

Confirmed Cases over 1,112,705 – Total Testing Volumes 21,494,336 - Testing % Positive Rate is at 8.39 percent - Confirmed Deaths at 14,427 and Current Hospitalization 394. For the official record concerning the by race and ethnicity, that native Americans still are not position as other ethnicities are in reference to the data that is on the website.

VI. Motions: Approval of Minutes:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote	
Approval of the Minutes for the 04-04-2022 Meeting	Kerry Hawk Lessard	Tiara Thomas	7Y-0N-0A	

VII. [Old] Business:

a. Petition Update:

At this present time, we have three individuals who have reviewed the petition. We did have a Special Call Meeting to replace two members, which will complete our five member RAC, which stands for Recognition Advisory Committee. We have voted in one individual, but are waiting to replace another, which would be our genealogist. We do have a waiver that has been sent to us from the AG's office concerning the change of rack members that needed to be taken care of, voted in as well as the timetable that has slightly been put off, and so therefore, requesting a waiver. This is actually in the process and that has been done and we're awaiting the finalization of the draft of that waiver to be sent to Madam Chair Ayers for her signature, which is the signature that would go on that, and then be placed in the file. The progress of the petition continues to move forward.

VIII. New] Business:

a. American Indian Heritage Month Kickoff

b. Director Keith Colston has had a conversation with Dr. Julian King with Saint Mary's College, which is one of the locations that was agreed upon during our strategic planning session for AIHM kickoff. We are 85% to 90% sure that this will be the location.

IX. Committee Reports:

1. Advisory Committee – No updated report provided.
2. Educational Committee – Tiara Thomas provided his report.
3. Health and Mental Health Committee – No updated report provided.
4. Archaeology Committee – Vice Chair Claude Bowen provided his report.
5. Budget and Finance Committee – No updated report provided.
6. Working Group – No updated report provided.
 - a) Historical Sites and Tourism
 - b) COMAR Regulations for Maryland Indian Status

X. Public Announcements on future Community Events:

Commissioner Peter Brooks – Harve de Grace Parade for July 4th.

Vice Chair Claude Bowen – Will be speaking at the Leonardtown Library on the role of the advocational archaeologist in Maryland on July 12th.

XI. Adjournment:

Motion	1 st	2 nd	Vote	Adjourn: 8:07 p.m.
Adjourn	Peter Brooks	Kerry Hawk Lessard	7Y-0N-0A	