

Pawnee Nation Governing Documents Committee
Quarterly Report to the Pawnee Business Council
First Quarter – 2021

I. Program/Office/Project Name:

Pawnee Nation Governing Documents Committee (Committee) – The Committee assists in reviewing documents and making recommendations for revisions for Commissions and Boards.

II. Executive Summary:

The PN Governing Documents Committee is composed of the following members: Cynthia Butler, Chair, Patsy McCray, Co-Chair, Denise Miller, Adrian Spottedhorsechief, Lisa Gover, Joseph Reed and Victoria Lefthand.

III. Meetings:

The Committee has met on the following dates during the first quarter: January 4, January 11, February 1, February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15 and March 22.

IV. Committee Report:

PN Governing Documents Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – We have seen the need for the Committee to develop an SOP to use as a guide and to define the role of the Committee. The Governing Documents Committee has been developing a process to bring all PN governing documents to this Committee for review and recommendation to the Pawnee Business Council for approval. Also outlining the processes for filing documents, recommendations to the PBC for approval, the comment period, Scholarship Program and selection, and budget procedures for adding funds from fundraisers and donations. The Committee is looking at a final approve by the end of the 2nd quarter.

Pawnee Nation Law and Order Codes - Codification of Pawnee Nation Law – Resolution #20-101 was passed on November 23, 2020 and the Committee has been working on the preparation of a system for filing governing documents within the Law-and-Order Codes. Also, by assigning a number filing system of each Title, Chapter and Section. The Committee is continuing with the work on the section numbering with unsuccessful efforts to get an extern or intern to help with this process. A lot of the failed effort is due to COVID Pandemic. We look to seek help in this upcoming summer or fall semester as things get back to normal.

Proposed Revisions to the Pawnee Nation Election Act – Proposed revisions made to the Election Act was submitted to the Committee for final review after the comment period ended on January 8th at 5 pm. The Committee along with the Election Commission Chair, reviewed the document for any additional



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revisions on January 11th. The document was recommended for PBC approval on January 15th and was passed by PBC Resolution 21-11. The Act went into effect the date of approval and the Committee Chair sent the document and requested additional review by the Commission to make necessary changes to documents for the planning of the PBC Regular Election in May of 2021.

Proposed Revisions to the Constitution of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma – The Committee finalized the proposed revisions for the Constitution of the Pawnee Nation, Article VII, Section 2 “Recall” on January 4th and submitted to the Council for approval on January 6th. The Council passed a PBC Resolution to accept the recommended revisions and submitted the request to the Department of the Interior for the call of the Secretarial Election. On March 5, 2021, the Pawnee Nation received the official notice for the call of the Election for the Pawnee People to vote on the recommended revisions to coincide with the PBC Regular Election process. The Nation will be conducting the Election in accordance with our PN Law, Election Act and the Election will be held on May 1st.

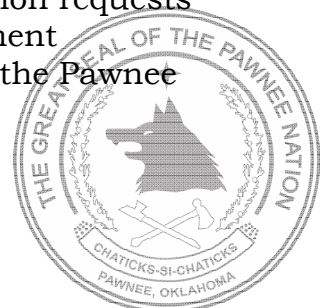
The Committee has sent correspondence to the Executive Office, Election Commission and Communications department on getting a mailout of the announcement of the Secretarial Election to the Pawnee Nation membership. A press release should be posted to social media and on the PN website.

The Committee does see the need for a comprehensive review of the Constitution and has suggested a Constitution Convention. We plan on working on this process at the end of the third quarter of 2021.

PN Governing Documents Scholarship Program – Advertising for the Scholarship program was sent to High Schools, local Colleges and clients of the Pawnee Nation Higher Education Program. The applications have been posted on the Pawnee Nation Website and social media sites to get the information out to the membership. We have not received any applicants to date but hope to have a few by the deadline or the Committee will review and extend the deadline.

PN Government-to-Government Consultation Statute – The Committee has been working on a document to provide a procedure for consultation requests to the Pawnee Nation. The Committee is looking to get the document submitted to the Attorney General for review in April and then to the Pawnee Business Council in May for approval.

V. Goals for 2021



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The Committee will be focusing on the following priorities in 2021. This list does not include small projects that will be worked on from Committees, Commissions and Boards.

1. Finalization of PN GDC Standard Operating Procedures
2. Constitution of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma – Constitutional Convention
 - a. Blood quantum
 - b. Secretary of Interior Approval
 - c. Nasharo Council
 - d. Grievance Policy for PBC
3. Review of Corporate Charter of the Pawnee Nation
4. Pawnee Nation Government-to-Government Consultation Statute
5. Pawnee Nation Law and Order Codes
 - a. Review of Casino Jurisdiction
 - b. Finalization of filing PN Law(s)
6. Pawnee Nation Land Into Trust Statute

We anticipate a busy year for 2021. This list is not in order of which will be done first. The Committee will review the list and provide a timeline for working on these documents and make recommendations for PBC approval.

VI. Financials:

The Committee has deposited \$300.00 in donations that will go toward scholarship awards. The awards will be given during the first week in August.

VII. Closing:

The Governing Documents Committee will be working on other small projects throughout the year and has been looking forward to collaborating with other Committees on drafting documents to be introduced into Law. With an outlined process of the review of all Pawnee Nation governing documents, we anticipate by the middle of 2022 to have reviewed and suggested revisions to strengthen the government for all Commissions and Boards.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Butler, PBC Seat #1
PN Governing Documents Chair

