



Pawnee Nation Governing Documents Committee
Quarterly Report to the Pawnee Business Council
2nd Quarter
April, May, June 2023

I. COMMITTEE SUMMARY:

The Committee assists in reviewing documents and making recommendations for revisions for Commissions and Boards.

The PN Governing Documents Committee is composed of the following members: Cynthia Butler, Chair; Walter Echo-Hawk, Co-Chair; Denise Miller, Member; Lisa Gover, Member; Joseph Reed, Member; and Victoria Lefthand, Member.

II. Meetings:

The Committee met did not meet for the second quarter. The Committee worked on continued planning for the Constitution Convention and did this via email discussion.

III. Quarterly Goals and Objective:

a. Description on Activities Conducted

- i. **PN Constitution Convention:** The Committee has been working on the planning for the Convention. The Convention delegates met on April 15 and June 24, 2023. The meeting minutes are below.

We have updated the Convention minutes on the webpage on the Pawnee Nation's website. Please visit the site at <https://pawneenation.org/government/constitution-convention/>.

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MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2023

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman Cynthia Butler called the meeting to order at 9:52 AM.

II. Opening Invocation

Mr. Bruce Pratt gave the opening invocation.

III. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

The roll was called to establish a quorum: Aaron Prim – present, Bruce Pratt – present, Carol Chapman – excused, Carol Nuttle – present, Chris McCray – present, Cynthia Butler – present,



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Dawna Hare – present, Denise Miller – present, Electa Hare – present, Gene Evans – present, George Gardipe – present, Gilbert Beard – present, James Rice – present, Jeneen SunEagle – excused, Jenifer Littlesun – present, Jordan Kanuho – excused, Joseph Reed – present, Lisa Gover – present, Louise Stevens – present, Marcus Barnoskie – excused, Meghan Cunningham – excused, Misty Nuttle – present, Pat Leading Fox – excused, Sammie Kemble – excused, Victoria Lefthand – present, and Walter Echo-Hawk – present. **19 Present, 0 Absent, and 7 Excused. Quorum is established.**

Present: Phil Gover, Virgil Wade and Chad Smith.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Dawna Hare to approve the agenda for April 15, 2023, seconded by Gene Evans.

VOTE: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. PN Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting February 11, 2023

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting for February 11, 2023, seconded by Walter Echo-Hawk.

VOTE: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 1 absent. Motion carries.

b. PN Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting February 25, 2023

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention Virtual Meeting for February 25, 2023 with corrections, seconded by Carol Nuttle.

VOTE: 16 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

VI. Old Business

a. Discussion and action on Article XII - Meetings

Motion made by Carol Nuttle to approve and recommend the revisions to Article XII – Meetings and add “within” to the Article, seconded by Walter Echo-Hawk.



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VOTE: 18 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

b. Discussion and action on Article XIII - Adoption

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to send Article XIII - Adoption back to the delegates for further consideration and review, seconded by Misty Nuttle.

VOTE: 16 yes, 2 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

c. Discussion and Action on Article XIV – Savings Clause

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to approve and recommend the revisions for Article XIV – Savings Clause, seconded by Denise Miller.

VOTE: 17 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

d. Discussion and Action on Article XV – Severability

Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to re-open Article XV - Severability for further discussion and review, seconded by Misty Nuttle.

VOTE: 17 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

Motion made by Lisa Gover to approve and recommend the suggested language for Article XV - Severability and to send the Article back to the Convention Floor, seconded by Misty Nuttle.

VOTE: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

Motion made by Denise Miller to approve and recommend the revisions to Article XV - Severability, seconded by Lisa Gover.

VOTE: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

VII. New Business

a. Discussion and Action on Article X - Courts



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Motion made by Walter Echo-Hawk to approve and recommend the revisions to Article X - Courts, seconded by Jenifer Littlesun.

VOTE: 16 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

b. Workgroup Discussion and/or Action:

- i. Discussion, Update, and/or Action on Article III – Membership**
- ii. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article VIII – Nasharo Council**

Discussion and updates on the workgroups. No action was taken.

VIII. Open Forum

Nothing for open forum.

IX. Discussion and Action on Convention Calendar

The delegates had discussion on the next meeting date. It was consensus that the next Convention Virtual Meeting will be on June 24th.

X. Recess

Motion and a second was made to recess the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention in-person delegate meeting.

VOTE: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries to recess at 12:06 PM.

The closing prayer was given by Jenifer Littlesun.

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MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2023

XI. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM.

XII. Opening Invocation

The opening invocation was given by Ms. Electa Hare.



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XIII. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

The roll was called to establish a quorum: Aaron Prim – excused, Bruce Pratt – excused, Carol Chapman – excused, Carol Nuttle – present, Chris McCray – present, Cynthia Butler – present, Dawna Hare – present, Denise Miller – present, Electa Hare – present, Gene Evans – excused, George Gardipe – present, Gilbert Beard – present, James Rice – present, Jeneen SunEagle – present, Jenifer Littlesun – present, Jordan Kanuho – excused, Joseph Reed – present, Lisa Gover – excused, Louise Stevens – excused, Marcus Barnoskie – present, Meghan Cunningham – excused, Misty Nuttle – present, Pat Leading Fox – excused, Sammye Kemble – excused, Victoria Lefthand – present, and Walter Echo-Hawk – excused. **15 Present, 0 Absent, and 11 Excused. Quorum is established.**

Present: Phil Gover, Virgil Wade

XIV. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Victoria Lefthand to approve the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention meeting agenda for June 24, 2023, seconded by Denise Miller.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain and 0 absent. Motion carries.

XV. Approval of Minutes

- a. PN Constitution Convention In-Person Meeting April 15, 2023

Motion made by Carol Nuttle to approve the meeting minutes of the Pawnee Nation Constitution Convention In-person meeting on April 15, 2023, seconded by Denise Miller.

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, and 1 absent. Motion carries.

XVI. Old Business

- a. Discussion and/or Action on Article X – Bill of Rights

During the discussion, Victoria Lefthand volunteered to make a draft revision for the delegates to review and submit the document in the Discord app.



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Motion made by Carol Nuttle to table Article X, Bill of Rights, for further review and put back on the table for the delegates, seconded by Denise Miller.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 0 absent, and 1 abstain. Motion carries.

a. Discussion and Action on Article XIII – Adoption

Article XIII, Adoption, was agreed on to send to the Attorney General for review. Misty Nuttle said that she will forward to the AG via email.

Questions: Do we still need to file with the Secretary of the Interior? And Do we need to look at the language from Amendments Article to make sure it is in line with adoption.

Motion made by Dawna Hare to table Article XIII, Adoption and send the questions to the Attorney General for comment, seconded by Carol Nuttle.

Vote: 15 yes, 0 no, 0 absent and 0 abstain. Motion carries.

b. Workgroup Discussion and/or Action:

- i. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article III – Membership
 1. Update from Pawnee Band Meetings

Matt Reed: Chaui Band. Everyone was in favor of getting rid of blood quantum and going to descendency.

In attendance: around 20 to 25 people in attendance. Talked about lineal descendency from the 1936 roll. Some asked why this is taking so long, mentioned that we are just spinning our wheels. On Mr. Reeds proposal, comments weren't concerned with the work load. They just wanted to get it done and move on the changes.

Gilbert Beard: Skiri Band. 50 band members in attendance (1 Chaui). Everyone, but one, were in favor of lineal descendency. There was a sense of urgency to get this done as soon as possible. Mr. James Rice: submitted a suggestion to the Skiri band to look at making the changes over a few years' time. Some were in favor, but others were in favor of getting it started and making the move/changes. But the proposal lowered the blood quantum over a 3- or 4-year period to relieve the influx of people wanting to get on the roll. Carol Nuttle asked if this was a phased in approach? Mr. Rice said yes.



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Pitahauwirata. Electa Hare said that most were supportive of the change, but band wanted to know a little more about what the change was going to be. There was no for or against, they were just measuring the temperature on where to lean. Fall meeting.

Kitkehahki. Had a lot of questions, but have not heard about if they had a second meeting.

Ask Matt and Gilbert to get with the other Chiefs to get what their bands were thinking on the membership article. Denise Miller said that maybe at the band handgames during homecoming the chiefs could mention the article to their members. She is in agreement to the proposal from James Rice.

2. Update from Membership Surveys

There were no updates or additional surveys submitted. Carol Nuttle: suggested that a virtual survey be drafted and publicized more. Matt Reed mentioned that the last survey was submitted on Feb 22.

The membership workgroup is going to be asked to create a survey of the top three options with yes or no answers and have ready for Homecoming. Paper survey and virtual survey.

The workgroup will get a meeting together and put the survey together.

Denise Miller asks if they could make a sample ballot format with comments section.

Misty Nuttle said she will get a bulleted list of what to incorporate on the survey (include the Nasharo Council – Restoration of powers). Ms. Nuttle will lead the charge on the survey.

QUESTION 1:

1. Lineal Descendancy
2. Lineal Descendancy with Perpetual 4/4
3. Phase Approach, lowering the blood quantum each year. (attach the proposal to the email to misty)
4. Leave it alone

QUESTION 2:

Vote Yes/No: Should we restore the powers of the Nasharo Council in the Constitution?



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Discussion on demographics of citizens, so they are not voting twice. Name and DOB: suggestion by Denise Miller. James Rice asked about posting definitions of what lineal descendancy, perpetual, collateral, etc., mean. Denise Miller suggested to have the definitions on the table for review.

3. Revisions for Article III – Membership

The group will come back for revisions once the surveys are sent out and gathered.

Ms. Carol Nuttle said that she will send a mock survey and send it to the group based on the information that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Victoria Lefthand said she will send some draft language to the group for edits/revisions for suggested language on the Membership Article. Send the draft to the workgroup and possibly add to discord.

Motion made by Misty Nuttle to approve the plan of action as discussed, with approval of the draft survey to be presented to the delegates, and to table Article III, Membership until the results are gathered from the surveys, seconded by Denise Miller.

Vote: 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, and 0 absent. Motion carries.

Electa hare was excused from the meeting at 10:40 AM.

- ii. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article VII – Forfeiture, Suspension, Recall, Removal

Motion made by Carol Nuttle to table Article VII – until the next meeting of the Convention for final review, seconded by Misty Nuttle.

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 absent and 1 abstain. Motion carries.

- iii. Discussion, Update and/or Action on Article VIII – Nasharo Council
Discussion from a few of the delegates was to add a section 6 to the article to restore the powers of the Nasharo Council. The suggestion was to reinsert the language from previous language that was removed.



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Section 6. The Nasharo Council shall investigate complaints of misconduct in office of members of the Pawnee Business Council and upon a proper showing shall call a joint meeting of the Pawnee Business Council and the Nasharo Council to act upon such complaints. Such joint council shall have the power, by a majority vote, after giving the accused a hearing, to remove him from office, provided that at least five (5) members from each of the councils are present.

Motion was made by Denise Miller to add and/or insert in Section 6, the language from the 1938 Constitution for the Nasharo Council for restoration of powers, seconded by Victoria Lefthand.

Vote: 4 yes, 7 no, 1 absent, and 2 abstain. Motion fails due to lack of a quorum present.

No further action from the delegation due a quorum not being established.

XVII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting has been set for July 22, 2023. The notice of agenda will be sent out along with the meeting Teams invitation.

XVIII. Open Forum

Nothing for open forum.

XIX. Recess

The delegation adjourned at 12:27 PM. The closing invocation was given by Mrs. Dawna Hare.

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ii. **PN Governing Documents Scholarship Program:** The Committee will be getting ready to send out the updated application for the Fall 2023 scholarship. Flyers have been sent to Pawnee Nation College and the Education Division for distribution.

b. Objectives for Next Quarter

- i. Continue with planning and working towards final output of the Constitution Convention for the Pawnee membership.
- ii. Complete the Codification of Pawnee Laws (PBC Resolution #20-101)



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iii. Fundraise for the Scholarship Program

IV. Financial Reporting

The financial report is recorded in the comprehensive report.