



AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF CHICAGO
AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER BOARD
3401 W. Ainslie St. | Chicago, IL 60625
773-275-5871 | www.aicchicago.org

Meeting of the Board Minutes
April 15, 2021
6:00-8:00 pm CST

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82564644971>

Recorded by Erika Ramirez, AIC Executive Assistant

Present: Melodi Serna, Erika Ramirez, Chantay Moore, David Morales, Norma Robertson, Carlotta Witulski, Robin Niklinski, Lynn Alamilla, Terry Cornell Jr.

Absent: Arlene Duncan, Benjamin Krause-Decorah

1. Call to Order- 6:09 PM, quorum present
2. Welcome/Opening Prayer- Norma Robertson
3. Introduction of the 2021 newly elected Directors- Chantay motioned to approve the results of the election accepting 4 new directorships: Robin Niklinski, Lynn Alamilla, Terry Cornell Jr., and Arlene Duncan. Norma seconded. Motion carried 7-0-0
4. Approval of January Minutes and 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes- tabled as the minutes have not been submitted to AIC by Secretary, Benjamin Krause-Decorah
5. Review of Finances/Funding
 - a. PPP Loan, 2nd Round- \$60,000
 - b. NUIFC- \$28,000
 - c. Resilience Partners- \$3,200
 - d. Donations- \$1,570.47
 - e. AIC currently has \$325,000 in grant opportunities awaiting responses
6. Program Updates
 - a. Arts/Culture Programming- Audio Overdose, Raging Film, Night of Poetry
 - b. Men's Talking Circle- will turn into Family Talking Circle
 - c. Easter event recap- AIC partnered with St. Kateri Center in giving the community an opportunity to take pictures with the Easter Bunny, we gave away over 60 Easter baskets, 57 Easter food baskets, over 5 dozen Easter Plants and flower arrangements
 - d. AIC and Northwestern University partner in Growing Kit Program
 - i. Four (4) different kits will be available (raised beds, window boxes, planters, and seed bombs)
 - ii. Distribution will be on April 24, 2021, 12-4pm
 - iii. Registration is required: <http://tinyurl.com/a4cpb3u4>
 - e. AIC will host its first Town Hall on April 23, 2021, 6:30-9:30 pm
 - i. Joining us to present our new Community Needs Assessment

- ii. CDC Guidelines will be enforced
 - iii. A To-Go meal will be provided
 - iv. Registration for in-person attendance will be required:
<http://tinyurl.com/38z8dt5h>
 - f. Introducing our Senior/Elder Lending Library
 - i. Any Senior/Elder that would like to attend any virtual AIC event we will lend tablets loaded with the event's zoom ready to go.
7. Discussion/Vote of recommended Bylaw changes-
- a. Review of changes that were presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on March 20, 2021 as required per Article XVII of the 2014 Bylaws
 - i. Changes to be made:
 1. **Current:** Article III. Section 1. Principal Office. The principal office of the Corporation shall be located in Cook County, Illinois at 1630 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois and Article V. Section 1. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of the Members shall be held on the second Saturday of February, at the American Indian Center, 1630 W. Wilson, Chicago, Illinois. **Proposed:** Update each section above to the current address of 3401 W Ainslie St. Chicago, IL 60625
 2. **Current:** Article IV. Members. Section 1. Classes of Membership (a) Voting Members. Voting Membership is open to any person who is an American Indian of at least sixteen (16) years of age and who agrees to pay any and all dues as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, as set forth in Section 4 of this Article IV, and who agrees to be bound by the Corporation's articles of incorporation, these bylaws, and any other rules or regulations as the Board of Directors may from time to time adopt (a "Voting Member"). For the purposes of these bylaws, membership or enrollment of an individual or of his or her parent(s) or grandparent(s) in a federally recognized tribe or band shall constitute absolute evidence of being an American Indian. In cases of dispute, the Board of Directors shall establish procedures and policies allowing individuals to apply to the Board of Directors for recognition as American Indian. **Proposed:** Article IV. Section 1. Classes of Membership. There shall be two classes of membership, Voting Members and At-Large Members. Voting Membership is open to any person who is:
 - Recognition with a state or federally recognized American Indian tribe, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations OR
 - Descendant of a tribe by proof of recognition of their parent(s) or grandparent(s) of a state or federally recognized American Indian tribe, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations
 - And at least eighteen (18) years of age

- And who agrees to pay any and all dues as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, as set forth in Section 4 of this Article IV,
 - And who agrees to be bound by these bylaws and any other rules or regulations of the organization.
3. **Current:** Article IV. Section 2. Appointment. The procedures for appointment to membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. **Proposed:** Article IV. Section 2. Appointment. REMOVE THIS ENTIRE ITEM
 4. **Current:** Article IV. Section 3. Membership Cards. The Board of Directors may provide for the issuance of cards evidencing membership in the Corporation, in such form as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The names and addresses of each Member and the date of issuance of the card shall be entered on the records of the Corporation. If any card should become lost, mutilated, or destroyed, a new card shall be issued at the discretion of the Board of Directors. **Proposed:** Article IV. Section 3. Membership Cards. The organization shall provide for the issuance of cards evidencing membership of the American Indian Center, in such form as shall be determined by the organization and these bylaws. The demographic information and tribal affiliation of each Member and the date of issuance of the card shall be entered on the records of the organization. If any card should become lost, mutilated, or destroyed, a new card shall be issued by the organization.
 - b. Motion by Chantay Moore to approve and accept Bylaw changes. Second by Terry Cornell Jr. 7-0-0 Motion Passed.
8. Election of the Executive Board
 - a. President- Norma nominated Chantay, Terry seconded. 7-0-0 vote passed
 - b. Vice President- Terry nominated Arlene, David seconded. 7-0-0 vote passed
 - c. Secretary- Chantay nominated Terry, Lynn seconded. 7-0-0 vote passed
 - d. Treasurer- Chantay and David nominated Norma, Terry seconded. 7-0-0 vote passed
 - e. Sergeant-at-Arms- Terry nominated David, Lynn seconded. Chantay nominated Lynn, Terry seconded. David declined nomination and supported Lynn. 7-0-0 vote passed
 9. Open for public discussion
 - a. Carla Witulski- Questioned the Save the AICC emails and our stance.
 - i. AIC will not respond to the emails, we have looked into next steps with our legal team.
 - b. Will there be positions posted for the future of AIC?
 - i. AIC has posted for a Public Relations Assistant now
 - ii. The Board will re-evaluate the Interim Executive Director in the coming months.

- c. Many positive comments were received in the Zoom chat by several community members who joined for the public session

10. Adjournment of Public Meeting- 7:29pm