



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal
Council
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final CULTURE COMMITTEE

*Codey Poindexter, Chair
Uriah Grass, Co-Chair*

*Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain Coke
Phone: 1-800-995-9465,
E-mail: council-public@cherokee.org*

Thursday, September 25, 2025

11:00 AM

Tribal Council Offices

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Poindexter called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Shotpouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Committee membership was established for those Council Members who were part of the 2025 election.

Councilor Coates attended remotely.

Present 13 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Julia Coates; Codey Poindexter; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny Kidwell ; Kendra McGeady; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

Absent 2 - Joe Deere and Danny Callison

Late Arrival 2 - Kevin Easley Jr. and Joshua Sam

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor McGeady moved to approve as submitted. Councilor Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Cultural Tourism - Molly Jarvis

Ms. Jarvis gave highlights from the report. She provided a handout on the Cherokee Heritage Center concept design. She introduced Christie Neuoff as the Chair of the Cherokee Nation Historical Society. She commented on the task force that was created and the findings of the task force. Mr. Travis Owens gave a presentation on the Heritage Center concept design. They then offered to answer any questions. Councilor Tehee commented as a former executive director at the Heritage Center

about the excitement of the new structure and the cultural elements. Councilor Patzkowski inquired if the presentation is available to share with the public. Other Councilor commented on the excitement to have the Heritage Center back open.

Cherokee Nation Language Department - Howard Paden

Mr. Paden gave an update on the report provided. He invited everyone to the grand opening of the Kenwood facility tomorrow. The Master Apprentice Program graduation is tomorrow. He provided an overview of the TIE Program. Mr. Paden gave an update on the Community Language Program and the Master Apprentice Program. He offered to answer questions from the report.

Community & Cultural Outreach - Savannah Smith

Ms. Smith offered to answer questions from the report provided. Councilor Shotpouch inquired if the cemetery restoration funds could be used for fencing. Councilor Legg inquired if there are any other funds for cemeteries other than the restoration funds. Councilor Sam requested a contact sheet for each community organization including what they offer and/or allow. Chair Poindexter requested the contact information be provided to the Council staff for distribution to all Council Members.

Cherokee National Treasures Advisory Committee - Jane Osti / Donetta Johnson

Ms. Vivian Cottrell gave highlights from the report. She requested a moment of silence for the passing of a National Treasure. She commented on her feature on the American Art Collector Podcast. Their meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at the Cultural Tourism offices. The Cherokee Art Market will be held at the Hard Rock Casino October 10th through the 12th. She offered to answer questions from the report.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. [25-100](#) THE CHEROKEE HERITAGE CENTER ACT OF 2020 – 2025 AMENDMENTS

Co-Chair Grass moved to approve. Councilor Tehee seconded the motion. Chief Hoskin gave appreciation to the current board and previous board for all of their hard work. The motion to approve carried with the following roll call vote:

Yea: 15 - Sasha Blackfox-Qualls; Lisa Hall; Daryl Legg; Dora Patzkowski; Kevin Easley Jr.; Julia Coates; Codey Poindexter; Ashley Grant ; Uriah Grass; Clifton Hughes; Johnny Kidwell ; Kendra McGeady; Joshua Sam; Melvina Shotpouch and Candessa Tehee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Poindexter announced the 4th Annual Indigenous Day Celebration Beyond the Trail in Stilwell at Carson Park.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hughes moved to adjourn. Councilor Shotpouch seconded the motion. The motion carried at 11:57 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Howard Paden
Savannah Smith*

*Brooke Neff
Vivian Cottrell*

*Canaan Duncan
Chuck Hoskin Jr.*

VISITORS PRESENT:

*John Young
Cheryl Trask
Christie Neuoff*

*Teddye Snell
Molly Jarvis*

*Travis Owens
Brenda Partain*