

Guam Indigenous Heritage Alliance (GIHA)

Date: Friday August 13, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Laura M. T. Souder

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81883317834?pwd=em1aY01mUWRUNWFicmNVL1IzRTEvQT09>

Absent: N/A	Members Present: Laura M. T. Souder (LMTS), Michael Lujan Bevacqua (MLB), Melvin Won-Pat Borja (MWPB), Elyssa J. Santos (EJS), and Anna Marie B. Arceo (AMA)
	Visitors: None

Order	Notes	Action
I. Roll Call and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members present asked to briefly introduce themselves. 	LMTS begins meeting at 2:05 p.m.
II. Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting July 2, 2021 and Special Meeting July 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
III. Community Outreach Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Report on status of list ✓ Letter to potential network members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EJS credited former Kumisión employee Ha’ani San Nicolas and intern Jaelen on the directory they generated. EJS sent letters to the majority of the organizations listed with the exception of the handful that did not have email addresses provided or those utilizing social media platforms. Some emails bounced back so she is currently acquiring updated contact information for those entities that did not receive the letter. She will work on sending letters to the remaining organizations. EJS reported that we received an email response from the diasporic group House of CHamorus (HOC). Jeff Macaraeg of HOC asked that we clarify whether GIHA is a political group as his organization is affiliated with a nonpolitical nonprofit. The response of MLB was that we are “nonpartisan political” - GIHA will advocate and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting will be dedicated to discussing how we can actually engage with community organizations. Elyssa will send out the directory for GIHA members to add to.

	<p>lobby but always in a nonpartisan way and in alignment with its values and mission. With regard to nonprofits, the rules are that you cannot support candidates in a political sense. We take seriously the structures of life and nonprofits are allowed to do that.” The idea is to communicate that we are political, but non-threatening. LMTS asserted that “self-determination is an American ideal”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MWPB expressed his support in creating more collaborative effort. He mentioned COD’s collaboration with Filipinos of Guahan and the Guam Museum. He mentioned that COD would be happy to provide space, resources, and opportunities to community groups in return for what they can bring to the table. • LMTS echoed MWPB about leveraging networking opportunities to not only share information on what everyone is doing, but how organizations and entities can support each other. LMTS stated, “We want to model cultural practice. The system of reciprocity is an exchange system and our job is to demonstrate that it is a modern phenomena: ta fan a’pâte means sharing the benefit (<i>guinaha</i> means resources) and burden (<i>kinatga</i>’ means the responsibility of executing). Our networks are alternatives to clan. They may not be based on kinship, but we are creating kinship in different ways. We are to dispel the notion that everything CHamoru is before and not in front of us.” 	
<p>IV. Support of changes being recommended for Historic Preservation law</p> <p>✓ Review of recommended changes by Patrick and other members</p> <p>✓ Letter to Senator Nelson’s committee supporting changes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMTS states that it is clear that change is needed in the historic preservation law and that Senator Nelson is committed to helping us make those changes. LMTS’s recommendation is that GIHA testify at the public hearing. There, GIHA can demonstrate officially the changes that Patrick Lujan is recommending as well as incorporate the recommended changes from GIHA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMTS will draft a letter of support. to Senator Nelson directly with a copy to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker on the need for changes and the need to contextualize the CHamoru people in the context of preservation. EJS will prepare the letter afterward and send it to MWPB and MLB for their review and signatures.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MLB wants to expand our oral history collection at the Guam Museum and asks that we go as a group to check out the collection.
<p>V. New Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MWPB announced that Joint Region Marianas (JRM) had a Public Agreement meeting to discuss updates on recent construction and mitigation. MWPB stated that JRM used covid as a way to limit engagement and access. The issue of the cultural repository was raised and he is trying to work through negotiations with UOG. His team has been sorting through artifacts, but there is still the question of the remains and the repository that is going to NAFTAAN. The repository is not built for remains, but for artifacts. The concern is that the construction of the NAFTAAN is not going to be built before GCR, and the goal is to do so before the election. Furthermore, the GCR is built to replace the Flores building which needs approval from the Flores family. Joe Borja at DLM sent his report and recommendation to the legislature to highlight acreage consideration. The site has to include an appropriate buffer zone. NAFTAAN to connect to SKC? LTMS stated that once the remains are returned, there must be heavy consideration over how they are placed in the NAFTAAN. She states, "If we do not know the names of the clans buried in those locations - the genealogy of place and clan - we need to make sure they're not put in as surveyor numbers." ● AMA highlighted the Governor's Educational Stabilization Grant funding and suggested that we all consider how we can share our grants for other projects. ● LMTS mentioned the bicentennial project in which she and others interviewed about 100 people. She highlighted the neglect toward such valuable resources and emphasized the need for greater care of our cultural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MWPB and MLB were asked to provide updates on NAFTAAN. ● LMTS and EJS are to add an extra item on the next agenda which is to have each agency share what grants they have acquired or are working to acquire and how they plan on using those funds.

VI. Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The next meeting will be held on Friday, September 3, 2021 at 2 p.m.	LMTS adjourned the meeting at 2:57pm.
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Prepared by Elyssa J. Santos (Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru) and approved by:

 _____ Laura M. T. Souder, GIHA Chairperson	 _____ Michael Lujan Bevacqua, GIHA Vice Chairperson
Date: <u>8/29/21</u>	Date: <u>9/3/21</u>