

Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV  
October 2, 2015

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission; Buck Sampson, Alumni, Stewart Indian School and Chairman, Stewart Advisory Committee; Terri McBride, Anthropologist and Vice Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Karyn de Dufour, Deputy, State Historic Preservation Office; Skip Canfield, Program Manager, Division of State Lands; Max Symonds, General Public; Scott Carey, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance; Michelle Fox, General Public; Meg McDonald, Washoe Tribal Member; Betty Badgett, Program Officer, Buildings and Grounds; Martin Phillips, Grounds Supervisor, Buildings and Grounds; and Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facilities Supervisor, Buildings and Grounds

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:06am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- II. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Buck Sampson.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. Sherry commented that Stewart alumni are getting older and therefore, important stories are being lost. She mentioned Hilman Tobey, the oldest Stewart alumnus that recently passed away at the age of 100. The Committee shared a moment of silence in his honor, with Buck and Meg reminiscing about some of the times they had with him.
  
- IV. Approval of August 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Meg made a motion to approve the August 7, 2015 minutes, seconded by Skip. There was one abstention, the motion carried.
  
- V. Grant and Fundraising Report
  - A. Update on National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant  
Karyn said there isn't an update yet and that the Park Service may not have a status update for a few months. She has been trying to get an answer, but so far has been unsuccessful.
  - B. Update on the 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant  
Sherry reported that H&K Architects and their consultants have met and discussed the project in detail. A small demolition project was done in Building #1 in order to accurately complete the design and construction documents. Plans were approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) before work commenced.
  - C. Update on NV 150 Grant: Stewart Indian School Oral History Project  
Sherry said she and Chris met with Anita Watson at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Shared History Department. They have resources such as equipment and interns that could be utilized by whomever the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) hires for the project. Sherry said that there will be a meeting at the NIC office with Anita and an intern on October 23, 2015. Anita told Sherry that the Shared History Department is interested in having the Stewart Indian School as their course project in the next semester. The class would also be assigned to research the Stewart Indian School and create an exhibit to be displayed in their building. Sherry also mentioned that Chris is working on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the oral historian now. Terri cautioned the NIC about making sure UNR

won't own the oral histories after the project ends. Buck asked about the oral history project that Joanne Peden had begun and Terri responded that the project needs additional funding to proceed. Buck asked if any of Joanne's footage could be used and Sherry said that the current grant will be used to fund new oral histories of people whose histories have not been recorded thus far.

VI. Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project

- A. Marty reported that the stone planter is expected to be completed by June 30, 2015. Betty said that the correct design needs to be approved. Betty and Marty brought samples of rock that were found at Clear Creek. The planter was five feet in diameter and used to be where the flagpole is now. Betty said they want to make sure that the design is comparable to what the Stewart alumni remember the planter looked like. Sherry said she would ask Daryl Crawford and Bernice Wungnema Gorham about what type of rock the fountain was made out of. Buck suggested asking Steven James to see if he remembers any details about the fountain. Skip asked why it was demolished and that is unknown. Terri suggested the NIC research the yearbooks for additional photos. Sherry volunteered Chris to begin researching the yearbooks for additional photos.
- B. Skip said that an encroachment permit application from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) will need to be requested. The State Public Works Division (SPWD) is prepared to make the request on behalf of the NIC. Skip said that Sherry will need to write a letter to the SPWD making the request.
- C. Marty reported on the sculpture project that is being worked on near Building #1. This sculpture of children sitting on the stump will be a tribute to the students that attended Stewart and will be made of bronze. Marty said photos from alumni would really help with the design. Meg asked if a project meeting could be set up so that alumni can be informed as to what is being planned at Stewart and how they can help.
- D. Betty shared that the church across the street on Snyder is being sold and that she is very interested in the stone. She may be able to obtain some of it for use at Stewart in some capacity.

VII. Status of Progress toward the Establishment of a Non-Profit for the Stewart Indian School

- A. Sherry reported that Neena Laxalt is the President of the new non-profit, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA). Kostan Lathouris is the Vice-Chairman, Terri McBride is the Secretary/Treasurer, and Michelle Fox is the bookkeeper. NIC Commissioner, Kathleen Quasula, is the Member At-large and Sherry is an ex-officio member that will serve as the liaison between the NIC and SISPA. Sherry reminded the Committee that SISPA is a separate entity and not part of the NIC. Sherry reported that SISPA's first meeting was held on July 13, 2015, in which bylaws were discussed and the members of the Board decided. Michelle stated that a post office box and a tax i.d. number have been obtained. The next step is to file for corporation status from the Secretary of State's office. From there, SISPA would apply for 501(c) 3 non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service as well as a bank account. Another meeting was held in August and there was a discussion as to whether staff should be hired. At the most recent meeting on September 25, 2015, financials and fundraising efforts were discussed. \$20 memberships will be the first thing to go out to the public.
- B. Terri said she has preservation community contacts and is interested in setting up a "Constant Contact" Account. She also mentioned that non-profits can apply for federal grants. Skip suggested that a SISPA license plate should be created as a way to generate funds.
- C. Terri introduced Scott Carey as the Executive Director of SISPA. Scott had been involved with Nevada's Indian Territory for five years and also worked previously with the Pyramid

Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT). Sherry said that he wrote the PLPT's economic development plan. She said that Scott has had a long history of working with the tribes of Nevada and that having him involved with SISPA is a perfect fit.

D. Buck asked to see the 501(c) 3 paperwork when it has been completed.

VIII. 2015 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

A. Sherry wanted to make the Committee members aware that the banquet is coming up fast and to please try to attend. A table is made available for Committee members to sit at each year. She asked for donations and informed everyone that sponsorships and tickets may be purchased online at [www.StewartIndianSchool.com](http://www.StewartIndianSchool.com).

IX. Stewart Indian School Website

A. Sherry introduced the new Stewart Indian School website to the Committee.

B. Skip suggested placing a link about the Stewart Advisory Committee onto the website and Marty suggested adding the Landscape Preservation Plan on the website as well.

X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

A. Stewart Bats Presentation

B. Updates on the grants

C. Update on SISPA

XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

A. The next meeting will be held on Friday, December 4, 2015 at the Commission office.

XII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

A. Sherry shared Governor Sandoval's visit to the Stewart Indian School on Wednesday, September 30, 2015. He stayed for two hours and was excited to see the old gym. He talked about the need for finding more funding and has some ideas on who to approach. She said Governor Sandoval is invested in this cause and that it is evident that he has a passion for Stewart. Sherry said that when discussing the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Initiative, she told the Governor her vision of using Building #89 for people to stay in the dorms and possibly using the auditorium for plays and movies. She mentioned that the old gym is the heart of Stewart. When restored, sporting events and festivals could be held there. Sherry has many ideas; from hosting business retreats to possibly having a Tribal College satellite site out at Stewart. Max commented that the old Stewart zip code is still available and suggested the NIC look into getting it back.

B. Sherry commented that she is the Co-Grand Marshal of this year's Nevada Day Parade and will share this honor with alumni from the school. Sherry stated that Helena Melendez and Reynalda James have said they will join her on the float. Sherry mentioned that there will be a FamFest area where craft vendor booths will be displayed. The NIC will have a Stewart Indian School booth as well as an Indian Territory booth. Terri said that Carson Colony wants to have their powwow be called "Nevada Day Powwow" and be promoted by Nevada Day. Sherry said there will be an American Indian division again like last year, but that her float will be in front due to her Co-Grand Marshal status.

C. Karyn commented about the Positive Train Control funding that is available to tribes and other state historic preservation offices nationwide. The SHPO was recently awarded \$10,000 and they will be putting that money toward Project Management training classes for her agency as well as training for state partners and stakeholders. Karyn said she will email more information to Sherry so the NIC could forward it out to the tribes.

- XIII. Final Public Comment
  - A. Karyn congratulated SISPA as well as the NIC for having the Governor come out and visit.
  
- XIV. Adjournment
  - A. Terri made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karyn. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 11:37am.