

Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV  
December 5, 2014

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Buck Sampson, Alumni, Stewart Indian School and Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Terri McBride, Anthropologist and Vice-Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Meg McDonald, Member, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Larry Hale, Retired Stewart Facility Supervisor; Rachel Malloy, Curator, Nevada State Museum; Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facility Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Betty Badgett, Program Officer I, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Teri Preston, Management Analyst II, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Kelly Lafayette, Management Analyst IV, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Martin Phillips, Grounds Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Carl Sampson, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- II. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Buck Sampson.
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. Terri asked about whether a representative from the State Historic Preservation Office would be in attendance at today's meeting. Chris said that the Commission will follow up to find out why they weren't in attendance.
- IV. Approval of October 3, 2014 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Rachel Malloy motioned to approve the October 3, 2014 minutes with no changes, seconded by Terri. Motion carried.
- V. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee
  - A. The request was made for the Committee to approve an Appointment of Representative Form for Betty Badgett, Program Officer I for Buildings and Grounds. Terri made a motion to approve one Appointment of Representative Form for Betty Badgett, Rachel seconded. Motion carried.
- VI. National Historic Landmark Working Group Report
  - A. Chris Gibbons reported that since the last Stewart meeting, the National Historic Landmark Working Group met with David Lauter and Elaine Jackson-Retondo of the National Park Service on November 5, 2015 by teleconference. Chris thought Mr. Lauter and Ms. Jackson-Retondo were encouraging and felt the meeting was both positive and productive. The committee is now working on revising a letter of intent before the process can move forward. This letter needs to state why Stewart should be a national landmark. Bonnie Thompson will be working on the historical significance portion of the letter and the group will submit it to the National Park Service by the first of the year.
  - B. Sherry commented that she felt the discussion of Alida Bowler, who was the first female superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 1934-1938 was highly significant.

- She was progressive and was able to make significant changes during her tenure.
- C. Terri stated that the group needs to argue why Stewart is significant to the nation's history, and not just the state's history.
  - D. Chris stated that there are many steps involved to this process. First a letter of inquiry is sent to the National Park Service, they review it, and then a site visit will be conducted. They will then ask for more information, if needed and then they will advise whether the project moves forward. If it does move forward, then the Commission will develop a nomination and the National Park Service will review the drafts. Once reviewed, they will then be sent to the National Historic Landmark Committee which meets twice a year, and if approved there, it goes on to the Secretary of the Interior for final approval. The entire process takes between two to five years for final approval.
  - E. Sherry commented that in addition to the letter of intent, support letters will also be needed from State Lands, Governor Sandoval, as well as letters from the tribes. Sherry will be attending the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Board Meeting on December 8, 2014 and will request support letters then.

VII. Fundraising Report - Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer I, Nevada Indian Commission

- A. 2015 Nevada Historic Preservation Fund Grant Submission  
Chris reported that the deadline for the 2015 Historic Preservation Fund grant is today and that the Commission is applying for \$15,000.00 to hire an oral historian. Since 2007 when the Stewart Indian School Trail was completed, five individuals have passed away and there are more stories to capture. Upon completion of the oral histories, the Commission would receive the audio, transcription, as well as print bound copies of the stories. The Commission would get a copy as well as the Nevada State Library and Archives and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Oral History Department. Terri recommended that instead of the UNR Oral History Department, that the oral histories should be sent to the UNR Special Collections Department instead.

VIII. Report on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project

- A. Marty Phillips stated that Marcus from State Public Works Division drew up plans for the entry gateway. He is working on getting the property lines back to Stewart, as the Baptist Church is the actual owner.
- B. The tree project has been completed and a total of 83 trees have been planted. Chris commented that the trees border the Powwow grounds beautifully.
- C. Betty Badgett reported that monies have been set aside for projects for the next fiscal year and she would like to meet with the Commission to discuss these projects. Betty also stated that she submitted a request for over \$300,000.00 for Stewart for fiscal year 2016/2017. Terri asked what kinds of projects have been discussed and Betty said not just landscaping, but sidewalk repair, paving by Building 89, as well as the Auditorium. She stated that the Administrator for Buildings and Grounds (B&G), Gus Nuñez, wants to use the Auditorium as a "town hall" for meetings.
- D. Ron stated that Betty also secured funding for new benches to be placed around Stewart as well. He also said that the bus stops got re-roofed and the shingles that came off the roof will be used as siding for other buildings.
- E. Chris commented that Adam Houle of B&G re-built and painted the porch for Building 4.

- F. Terri asked Betty for clarification as to whether Stewart will still receive the money that is owed, since the B&G is waiting for the boundary issue to be resolved. Betty confirmed that B&G will in fact receive this money.

IX. Report on the 2014 Nevada Day Parade Entry and Sesquicentennial Honoring Reception for the 1964 Centennial Indian Princesses

- A. There were originally 22 Indian Princess Contestants 50 years ago. Of those, five had passed away and we were able to honor 15 of them or their representatives at the reception on October 30, 2014. The event was completely sold out and the stories that were shared were very touching. Most of the princesses were local; however, we did have a few come from out of state – Alaska, Florida and New York. Meg McDonald went out and was able to get \$3,000 in donations almost single-handedly from several of the tribes. There will be a meeting with the Sesquicentennial Honoring Reception Committee to verify that the money that was left over will in fact be donated to the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center. The group will be updated as to when that meeting occurs and what decision was made.
- B. Chris thanked Meg for gathering all of the files and information on the princesses. She made many phone calls and was able to get as many of the ladies there as possible. Some of the ladies didn't want to write their autobiography, so Meg stepped in and wrote it for them. Meg's assistance was invaluable.
- C. The Commission had an entry in the Nevada Day Parade and Meg was able to secure a donated truck, trailer and driver from Paiute Pipeline. Forty people showed up on that cold, rainy day. Princesses with their families as well as Stewart alumni rode on the float. In addition, the Commission was able to work with the Nevada Day Parade Committee to establish a Native American Division which showcased all of the Native entries in one section, such as Pyramid Lake, Duckwater, Fallon, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.
- D. Meg mentioned that a group photo of the Princesses along with a "Thank You" letter will be printed in the Nevada Appeal on Sunday, December 7, 2014. Meg said that while she was pleased with the way everything turned out, she was disappointed that the tribes didn't contribute as much as she thought they would.
- E. Chris brought up that the Commission has a Flickr account to upload photos of events. The Commission recently gained access to the passwords to this account and will be in the process of getting the photos uploaded.
- F. Buck asked whether there was a recording of the Nevada Day Parade. It was suggested that he contact Darla Bayer at the Brewery Arts Center for a copy of the video that had been live streamed that day.

X. Report on the 2014 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

- A. Sherry stated that the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction is the main fundraiser for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center. The event took place at the Governor's Mansion on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm. The awards were in four categories and were awarded as follows: The American Indian Community Leader of the Year was awarded to Aletha Tom, Chairwoman for the Moapa Band of Paiutes; Paula Smith was awarded the American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year and is currently a Juvenile Probation Officer with the Washoe Tribe;

Calista Cruz was awarded as the American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year and the Contributor/Supporter of the Year award went to Ben Rupert. Compared to the 2013, this year's Banquet and Silent Auction yielded \$7,900.00, the most the event has ever made.

XI. Discussion on Legislative Strategy for Stewart Indian School Initiatives

- A. The Commission will have three bills introduced to the Legislature when it begins on February 2, 2015. The first bill concerns a Gift Account being established for the Stewart Indian School. When the Commission was under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), it was in the Department's statute that gift accounts were allowed. At the previous Legislative Session, the Commission was moved from the DHHS to the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA). The DTCA does not have currently have a provision for the creation of Gift Accounts in their statute; therefore, the Commission would like to have NRS 233A explicitly state that they are authorized to have a gift account. The Commission is also asking to be designated as the coordinating agency for the Stewart Indian School. The Commission is working to make sure that the tribal community has a voice in the planning and use of the Stewart Indian School, especially considering the history with the American Indian community. The Commission has also submitted a Major Budget Initiative for the Stewart Indian School, which includes a bill draft request that would explicitly state that the Commission has the authority to develop the Stewart Indian School Campus, including the Stewart Indian Cultural Center and the Welcome Center.
- B. Sherry stated that she is waiting to get the bill numbers for all of the Commission's initiatives and as soon as they are available, all members of the Stewart Advisory Committee will receive a copy.
- C. Sherry reported that the Commission is planning a Tribal Legislative Forum on January 15, 2015. The purpose of the Forum is to bring the tribal leaders into town to inform them on who the new legislators are, which committees there are, committee functions, what the committees want to know, committee members, and the committee leadership. The Forum will also give the tribes an opportunity to share which legislation they are following and how it will affect them. Sherry mentioned that she wanted to share the legislation that the Commission is recommending and to gain tribal support. The Commission will also work on a list of those that will be available to testify at the hearings for their proposed legislation. Tribal leaders, alumni, former employees, educators, and youth could testify on the Commission's behalf stating why it is important for the State to save this place.
- D. Sherry mentioned that the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) has been submitted for construction on two buildings and is a \$3 million request. This may still be included in the Governor's budget as well as the operating portion.
- E. Sherry asked the members of the Stewart Advisory Committee to be in attendance at the Tribal Legislative Forum and will be working on sending out a "Save the Date" flyer. She stated that former legislators have already informed her of wanting to come and speak at the event. Meg asked that the speakers recommend ways to communicate effectively with legislators.
- F. Terri commented that she can help identify key people from Reno that can be contacted to testify.

- G. Sherry also reported that at the last cabinet meeting she had with Governor Sandoval, he commented that he wanted to come out to Stewart and see the opportunities that Stewart has available. Sherry stated that she will be working with B&G so that when he does come out, they can give him access to some of the buildings, especially the auditorium so he can see what the potential is. Meg asked whether alumni should be at Stewart when he comes and Sherry said that would be a good idea. Chris said that when the Commission finds out the Governor's schedule, the Commission will plan the itinerary accordingly.

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Sherry stated that the Committee may need to meet in between scheduled meetings due to issues that may be brought up during the legislative session. She shared that she is in the process of writing a business plan at the request of the Administration.
- B. Terri stated that she wants to set up a non-profit, "Friends of Stewart" –type 501(c) (3). She will work on the process of finding out more of what is needed to proceed and will update the group at the next meeting.

XIII. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be held Friday, February 6, 2015 at the Nevada Indian Commission office.

XIV. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Chris mentioned the NCOT marketing grant that will be used to update the Commission's website as well as the Stewart Indian School site.
- B. Chris shared that in January 2015, she will be starting her online Master's program in Museum Studies.
- C. Terri suggested that class reunions be held when the cultural center opens.
- D. Meg asked whether Indian people can use the gym and how it can be reserved. Buck mentioned that it was stated in the deed that it should be open to all tribes. Chris stated she would research this and get back to the group at the next meeting.
- E. Meg asked Terri if she was still a member of the Carson City Cultural Commission. Terri confirmed that she was and stated that there will be a meeting on December 16, 2014 and Terri will ask how to get Sherry on the agenda so she can talk about Stewart.

XV. Final Public Comment

- A. After showing the new Stewart Marketing Video, Sherry mentioned that the video will be utilized many times throughout the legislative session to bring awareness to the importance of saving Stewart.

XVI. Adjournment

- A. Rachel made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Meg. Motion carried.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47am.