

Nevada Indian Commission  
 June 3, 2016  
 Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
 Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Buck Sampson	Alumni	✓	
Terri McBride	Knowledge of School	✓	
Karyn deDufour	State Historic Preservation Office	✓	
Betty Badgett	State Buildings & Grounds		✓
Meg McDonald	Knowledge of School	✓	
Rachel Delovio	Nevada State Museum	✓	
Skip Canfield	State Lands	✓	
Max Symonds	Knowledge of School	✓	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission

Others Present: Larry Hale, Retired, State of Nevada Buildings and Grounds; Neena Laxalt, Chair, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance; Carl Sampson, General Public; Max Hershenow, H&K Architects

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:06 am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- II. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Buck Sampson.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.
  
- IV. Approval of April 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes
  - A. With no changes made, Terri McBride motioned to approve the April 1, 2016 meeting minutes, seconded by Rachel Delovio. Motion carried.
  
- V. For Possible Action: Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee.
  - A. Sherry Rupert reported that there are no forms to approve and said that there are eight official members of the Stewart Advisory Committee. She stated that if anybody in attendance would like to be part of this Committee, to please submit their Appointment of Representative forms for approval.

VI. Informational Presentation on the Stewart Indian School Master Plan

A. Max Hershenow of H&K Architects gave an informational presentation to the group about the Stewart Indian School Master Plan. He said that his team will look at the whole campus, but will focus development on the core, which he says is the “gateway to the whole experience.” Max reported that H&K is taking a holistic approach with the Master Plan, which centers on the vision of Stewart. He then recited the following core message: “The Stewart Indian School changed the course of generations of American Indians. For more than 90 years, the American Indian children were removed from their homelands, family and culture with profound impacts on their lives. The Stewart Indian School Living Legacy preserves their stories and cultural legacy – Never to be Forgotten.” Max reported that an Interpretive Plan will tell the story of Stewart and a Market Study will showcase the different opportunities for Stewart. Finally, a business plan will outline the structure of the project. Terri asked how a market study is actually done. Sherry replied that the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) will work closely with the State Division of Tourism for direction on this segment. Within the Master Plan, Max explained the *Strategic Plan* which will include an experience plan and development options; a *Presentation Plan* focuses on the historic integrity of site components as well as recommendations for appropriate uses for the buildings and site. The *Implementation Plan* is considered to be the “rough order” of development costs, phasing and the schedule for implementation of the project, which he says will take approximately five to ten years. *Potential Uses* of the campus include recreating the experience of what attending the school was like and Sherry offered that a tribal college could exist on campus. Max mentioned the priority of establishing the Cultural Center inside Building #1. Other uses include the possibility of housing compatible state agencies like the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the Division of Tourism, or even Economic Development. One of the buildings could be turned into a conference center for businesses to hold meetings and retreats. The campus is so beautiful and peaceful that various artists may even have their own retreats at Stewart, as well. There could even be a garden for the community to enjoy. Athletics was a big part of the school and the football field and track would be important to restore. Max reiterated that the goal isn’t just to attract the international visitor, but the local community as well. Max said that he wants to set up some focus groups to further explore these ideas. Neena asked whether an eatery and/or a gift shop would be available and Max said that the dining hall could be utilized for that purpose. Skip asked why the creek appears to be under-emphasized in this plan and Max said that it wasn’t meant to be that way. Max shared that he feels the creek allows many opportunities for families to enjoy. Sherry agreed and shared that the new housing development that is being built nearby will also have access to the trail system. Terri also mentioned that the creek is important because it is an animal migration corridor with mountain lions and bears accessing it from Lake Tahoe. Max stated that this new interpretive plan and market study is a nine month planning process and he doesn’t want to rush this part just to get started on the Master Plan. Sherry added that the Master Plan was funded by the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) during the last legislative

session. She stated that Max is working very hard with the NIC and SHPO to make sure that the Master Plan has everything that the group is asking for.

- B. Sherry also stated that H&K Architects have been really great to work with and that they have been working with the NIC on Building #1 (the Cultural Center) from the beginning. Max S. asked the group whether the V&T train was still going to come back to Stewart as a stop along the railway. Terri responded that the Carson City Board of Supervisors doesn't seem interested in working on this project. Karyn said that the right-of-way is privately owned and Skip agreed that is the issue that is stopping the project from moving forward. Neena shared that Congressman Mark Amodei was instrumental in getting the V&T route from Virginia City to Carson City. The Committee wants to reach out and see if the Congressman would be interested in assisting with this project. Karyn shared that there is a flower mill in Minden that is on the National Registry and is being turned into a distillery in a few years. Perhaps one day Stewart could be a stop along the way to the distillery.
- C. Meg asked Max H. about the photographs in his handout. Max commented that the first picture shows the swimming pool that used to be in front of Building #1. It is interesting to see the tankers in the background as well as the beautiful landscaping that is slightly different than it is now. The second photo shows former students and staff standing on the steps in the back of Building #1. Karyn asked if it was possible to find out the names of those students and Chris said the people were probably administrative staff. She will look up the original photo, but she doubts any names are associated with it.

## VII. Update on Grants for the Stewart Indian School

- A. 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant – Chris said she received an email from Jeff Currant from H&K Architects that the construction documents were turned in on May 27, 2016. Max Hershenow from H&K stated that the drawings should be done on June 13, 2016 and will be delivered to the Commission when completed. Chris said that there are some bills that require payment until the grant is completely spent out. She then thanked Max at H&K for going above and beyond.
- B. 2016 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Grant Award (formerly the Commission for Cultural Affairs) Grant – Chris reported that the NIC received \$147,000 to fund the structural repair, strengthening and seismic retrofit of Building #1. Sherry thanked Terri for representing the NIC during the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation grant awards meeting on April 14, 2016. Sherry said that both she and Chris were out of town at the time and were fortunate that Terri stepped up. Larry asked Chris whether the NIC has hired somebody to do the seismic study of Building #1 and Chris deferred to Max H. who said that while the building is solid, the walls aren't strong enough to handle a seismic event. Chris went on to say that this will be the first project for Building #1 which will implement the construction documents.
- C. 2017 Nevada Arts Council Project Grant Award – the NIC recently received \$4,332.00 for the 2017 Stewart Father's Day Powwow. Chris stated that the grant is applied for a year in advance and that next spring, the NIC will apply for the 2018 Powwow. Chris said that Sherry recorded a radio ad that will be played on six different stations beginning the following week and will run for two weeks. Buck asked which radio stations will

play the ads and Chris said she would research this and get back to him. This grant allows payment for the person that controls the sound system and microphones, the Powwow Head Staff to include the Emcee, Arena Director, Head Man, Head Woman, Head Teen Boy, Head Teen Girl as well as the dance registrar. This grant is very helpful and gets spent out every year.

- D. NV 150 Grant Stewart Indian School Oral History Project – The NIC received \$20,000 from the trustees of the NV 150 Foundation. Chris said she is still working on the RFP and will submit it to Sherry next week. The Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) has received \$25,000 from this foundation as well. The funds will go toward a documentary on the Stewart Indian School and will coincide with the oral history project. JoAnne Peden is going through her footage to see who already has been interviewed so the efforts won't be duplicated. Chris said that both projects will be completed after the Powwow. Neena asked Chris what the process would be in terms of hiring the oral historian and Sherry said that SISPA is its own entity and can hire whomever they want.
- E. Update on Positive Train Control, Cultural Resource Fund Grant Submission – Karyn reported that earlier in the year, SHPO submitted an application for the interpretive plan and received \$40,000. Sherry said that funding has also been identified for a marketing study and business plan. Sherry added that additional funding has been identified for the NIC to hire a contractor to write the application for the National Historic Landmark designation. She also said that there is additional funding to renovate Building #4 (directly behind the NIC office) for the museum staff that will be hired after October 1, 2016. Terri asked about the Clear Creek property and Skip said that the land has not been sold yet. Skip said comps in the area have gone up 20 percent and that the market has to improve some more. Skip commented that there will be more pressure on State Lands next legislative session for selling the Clear Creek property.

#### VIII. Report on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project

- A. Chris reported to the group that Buildings and Grounds (B&G) has finished building a replica of the original stone fountain that was in front of Building #1 and is currently working on replacing concrete on Wa-Pai-Shone. Also, to date, two meetings have been held to discuss collaboration and rehabilitation of the track and field at Stewart to benefit youth in the community.

#### IX. Update from Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance

- A. Neena said that the event on May 21, 2016 was successful. A lot of people asked if it will happen again next year. She said the tours were what enlightened people. She wants to put a committee together to arrange next year's Under the Stewart Stars event.
- B. Neena reported that Terri McBride has resigned as the treasurer for the SISPA board. Neena said she would take over this position until a new one is found. She went on to say that SISPA is starting to research grant opportunities and Terri is helping with that. Neena also said that Vice- Chairman, Kostan Lathouris will be overseeing the grants program.
- C. Terri commented that KOLO News did a really nice story on the SISPA event. She noticed that they joined the tours and interviewed Ralph Burns at length. Terri shared

that Ralph did a real good job and that he is a great spokesman for Stewart. Terri also said that she saw a Las Vegas Review Journal article interviewing Kostan. Sherry added that when she attended the Governor's Cabinet meeting after the SISPA event, the Governor had shared with the Cabinet that he enjoyed the event and even tweeted about Ben and John Rupert's dancing. During the Cabinet Meeting, the Governor shared a video he had taken along with a tweet with the rest of the Cabinet members. Chris thanked the volunteers for doing such a great job and she also thanked photographer, Larry Burton, who donated his time by taking over 200 photos of the event. Sherry thanked Max Hershenow for donating two tickets back to the event so that alumni could attend.

- D. Neena offered that with the new legislative session about to start, Stewart will be in the legislators' minds because of this event and asked Sherry if any of the legislators have toured Stewart before. Sherry said that she has offered, but so far they have not come out. She is hopeful that will change now that they are more informed as to what Stewart is all about. Chris added that Stewart has gained some exposure due to the success of the event. Neena thanked the Committee for helping out with the event and said that the next Under the Stewart Stars event will be even better.
- X. Update on Planning for the 2016 Stewart Father's Day Powwow and Update on Committee Outreach Support of the Powwow Committee
- A. Sherry reported that members of the Head Staff often have specials to thank the Powwow Committee for the honor of being part of the Head Staff. The specials include giving gifts after their particular dance. These can be monetary or material gifts.
  - B. Sherry said that a new event, gourd dancing, will take place this year. It will be held before Grand Entry on Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm and on Sunday from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Buck described gourd dancing as a blessing of the grounds. Grand Entry is the showcase of all dancers in their regalia.
  - C. Sherry commented that there is another new component of the powwow this year. She said she was contacted by a representative from State Farm Insurance and was told that they would be donating a refurbished car that had been repaired at Rupert's Auto Body and other Carson City businesses. They plan to give the car away to a deserving native family at the Powwow.
  - D. Sherry told the group that three Stewart Indian School alumni will be honored at the Alumni Reception on Thursday, June 16, 2016. They are: Flora Greene from Pyramid Lake, Walt Kizer from Dresslerville, and posthumously, Andrew Allen from Schurz, NV.
  - E. Sherry told the Committee that she will be interviewed on three radio shows to promote the Powwow. Chris has placed a few Facebook ads for \$66.00/day and one reached 5,000 people in one day. This year, the NIC is partnering with the Division on Tourism by having them tally the information gathered on surveys taken at the Powwow. Terri asked Sherry if lodging will be tough because of the "Epic Rides" mountain biking competition that will also be held at the same time. The Powwow has a room block at host hotel, Carson City Plaza.
  - G. Sherry told the group that she and Chris visited the Manzanar National Historic Site in Independence, CA in May and met with their superintendent and chief interpreter.

Sherry said she loved how the site is interpreted and how passionate they are. Sherry said they were amazed at the similarities between what happened to the Native people at Stewart and what happened at Manzanar with the Japanese. One of the things Sherry and Chris were able to bring back with them was Manzanar's Oral History and ID Booklet. The booklet is a guide that is given out to the people that were detained at Manzanar and is designed for them to tell their story. Sherry felt that it was important for the NIC to get the Oral History and ID Booklets printed so they can be handed out at the Powwow. Chris said the Manzanar staff had so many ideas and that there are so many possibilities for interpretation at Stewart. Sherry stated that overall, Manzanar will be a great resource for the Stewart projects moving forward. Chris told the group that they invited Sherry to go back and speak to them about Stewart and the Manzanar staff was invited to come to Stewart and give a presentation as well.

- H. Sherry asked the group if they would consider volunteering for the Powwow and Karyn asked Sherry to describe the duties of each role. Sherry said that volunteering as a runner entails picking up supplies for the day. Volunteering at the Informational Table includes selling raffle tickets, t-shirts, and Powwow programs. Volunteering as a grounds crew member entails bagging the garbage, transporting it by riding the quad, and then throwing it into the dumpster. The Alumni Booth is in Building #1. The Nevada State Museum has an exhibit of old Stewart Indian School photos and the Great Basin Native Artists will be exhibiting their art too. Volunteering as part of the closing crew means the person will be breaking down tables, picking up chairs and cleaning up the grounds. Sherry told the group to contact Denise and she will send out the link to the volunteer page. Terri asked how the ad sales are going and Sherry said that \$2,000 in sales have been gathered so far.
  
- XI. For Possible Action: Agenda Items for Next Meeting
  - A. Review and Approval of June 3, 2016 Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
  - B. Master Plan Update
  - C. Grants Update
  - D. SISPA Update
  - E. Update on the 2016 Stewart Father's Day Powwow
  
- XII. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting
  - A. Chris said the next Stewart Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2016 from 9:00-11:00am at the Nevada Indian Commission.
  
- XIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
  - A. Sherry reported that the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit will be held on the Stewart Campus, June 28-30, 2016 to bring together the bi-state federal land management agencies in California and Nevada, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management to discuss how best to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge and western science. This forum came about when federal agencies erroneously clear cut the pine nut trees in the Sweetwater Range in order to protect the sage grouse. Sherry told the Committee members to sign up for the

Summit via the NIC website. Terri asked how many people are expected to attend and Sherry said about 150 people.

- B. Sherry also mentioned that the TEK Summit will be held the day after the Carson City Chamber of Commerce holds its Annual Meeting on the Stewart Indian School grounds. Sherry stated that she and Chris will be giving tours of the school for this meeting.
- C. Sherry congratulated NIC intern Kate Krolicki's recent graduation from high school and presented her with a birthday card and personal gift. Kate will be attending Harvard and while there, her sister Elle will follow in her sister's footsteps and intern at the Commission.
- D. Chris informed the Committee that the Dining Hall is number one on the list to be cleaned out. Next will be Building# 4, Building #16 and then the auditorium. Chris said that when the NIC gives tours, the Commission wants to show how the buildings were used and how they can be used now. Chris went on to say that B&G will designate some buildings as legitimate storage.
- E. Buck commented that the old gym is going to be Governor Sandoval's legacy because it was one of the biggest areas to have bouts, games, dances, gatherings. It is too special to have it go to waste. Buck added that he really enjoyed the SISPA event and thanked everybody.

XIV. Final Public Comments

- A. There were no final public comments.

XV. Adjournment

- A. Terri motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rachel. Motion carried.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03am.