

Nevada Indian Commission
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV
June 5, 2015

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer I, 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, Vice-Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee and Anthropologist; Max Symonds, former Stewart Indian School Museum volunteer and member of the public; Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facilities Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Martin Phillips, Grounds Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Karyn deDufour, Deputy, State Historic Preservation Office; Larry Hale, Retired, State of Nevada Buildings and Grounds; Skip Canfield, Program Manager, Division of State Lands; Rachel Malloy, Collections Manager, Nevada State Museum; Meg McDonald, Member, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Gracie Dick, Member, Benton Paiute Tribe.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:05am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

- II. Invocation
 - A. The invocation was given by Buck Sampson.

- III. Initial Public Comment
 - A. Terri mentioned that she was present for the ‘Preserve Nevada’ tour and presentation of the Stewart Indian School given by Sherry on May 21, 2015. She said that Preserve Nevada is a statewide preservation non-profit organization with 15 board members based at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). She commented that the members were impressed with what they saw at Stewart and seemed very supportive. Sherry stated that former Governor Richard Bryan is on the committee, as well as former Las Vegas newscaster, Robert Stoldal, and Professor Andy Kirk of the Department of History at UNLV. Sherry gave a PowerPoint presentation and they toured the grounds as well as went into some of the buildings on campus. Sherry feels the committee was especially impressed with the auditorium, and of the opportunities available at Stewart.
 - B. Max Symonds introduced herself as a former volunteer of the Stewart Indian School Museum that was established after the school closed.

- IV. Approval of April 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Terri found a small error and asked Denise to remove the additional heading that is under Item VII, Status of Efforts to Secure Non-Profit Status. Sherry also stated that in Section 12, there was some formatting that needed to be corrected.
 - B. With these minor corrections, Karyn motioned to approve the April 3, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Terri. Motion carried.

- V. Request for Letter in Support of State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Grant Application to the National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant Program Request
 - A. Karyn stated that the National Park Service has a grant available for State Historic Preservation Offices and federally-recognized tribes to create National Register or National Historic Landmark (NHL) nominations for underrepresented communities. Karyn said NHL nominations are not easy to prepare because there is much comparison across the

country and it is difficult to prove national importance, not just regional or local importance. Karyn is asking for the Committee to sign a letter of support for SHPO to apply for the grant to draft the NHL nomination.

- B. Karyn informed the Committee that a letter from Elaine Jackson-Retondo of the National Park Service was received by SHPO and the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC), stating that they approve the Commission's intent to move forward with the Stewart Indian School NHL application. Sherry commented that Ms. Retondo was pleased with the amount of support letters she received from the tribes as well as from Governor Sandoval. Sherry said that Andy Kirk stated that he and his interns could assist the Commission with the application, if needed. Sherry also reported that the Chairman of the NIC had signed a letter of support as well.
- C. Terri asked Karyn to explain the Underrepresented Communities Grant in further detail. Karyn responded by saying that the Underrepresented Communities Grant has been around for about three years and that each year the award fluctuates due to changes in Congress. Karyn also commented that the grant can be as much as \$75,000, but in past years, the funding of it has been closer to \$20,000.
- D. Rachel motioned to approve the signing of the letter of support for SHPO to apply for the National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities Grant, Meg seconded. Motion carried. As Chairman, Buck signed the letter of support on behalf of the Committee.

VI. Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms

- A. The request was made for the Committee to approve one Appointment of Representative Form for Don "Skip" Canfield III, Senior Planner, at the Nevada Division of State Lands. Terri made a motion to approve the Appointment of Representative Form for Skip Canfield, and Karyn seconded. Motion carried.

VII. Grant and Fundraising Report

- A. Chris updated the Committee on the NV 150 Foundation Grant award that was received by the NIC on March 27, 2015. The award of \$20,000.00 will be used to interview Stewart Indian School Alumni and the audio recordings of these interviews will be transcribed, catalogued, and archived at the NIC, State Library and Archives, and Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). These interviews may be used in publications, documentaries, museum exhibitions or other forms of presentation. Recordings, transcripts, photographs and related materials may also be posted on the Stewart Indian School website. The NIC is working with the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA) on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Chris presumes that the project will commence after July 1, 2015 and the Commission will hopefully have an individual on board by the end of the summer.
- B. Regarding the Commission for Cultural Affairs (CCA) Grant, Chris reported that the NIC is currently working with the State Public Works Division (SPWD), SHPO, the DTCA and the State Budget Office on finalizing the project schedule and bringing the funding into the NIC budget account. The CCA Grant awarded the Commission \$137,000.00 for design and construction documents for Building #1.
- C. Chris stated that she is working on a listing of grants and deadlines, including a timeline showing what the grants are, when they are due, and what they are for. She said when the document has been completed; it will also be helpful to the Museum Director and Curator when they join the NIC in 2017.
- D. Terri asked how the RFP will go out and Sherry stated that she will send information through the NIC list serves and will possibly do some advertising. Terri asked if the information can be sent through the clearinghouse that Skip manages, and he said that it can.

- E. Terri also asked how the interviewees will be chosen for the project and Sherry stated that there will be a panel selecting the participants. Chris said a list will be compiled with all possible historians as well as Stewart alumni that haven't been interviewed previously. If a Committee member has a recommendation, Sherry said to contact the Commission and provide all information about the person being recommended for the project. Terri said she had someone in mind and will relay the contact information to Sherry.

VIII. Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project Report

- A. Marty said the ADA sidewalk project has been completed and that Ron was in charge of that particular contract. He reported that some sidewalks on Gibson Street will be replaced, but that the project is still under construction. He also stated that the irrigation project is on hold due to the drought. Sherry asked Marty about the front entrance and whether there has been a decision on who the correct owners are. Marty said that as of now, a decision has not been made and said that any decision would be made by State Lands and Buildings and Grounds (B & G). Karyn commented that the City of Carson City is also involved because of the property lines and where they fall. Terri said she would call Carson City Public Works and ask for an update on that issue. Max commented that when she was here, the dirt parking lot at the church marked the boundary line, but that the street itself was Carson City. That was 50 years ago, however, and things have changed since then. Meg asked whether the fence at the church would be replaced. The fence is part of the church, so the State is not responsible.
- B. Chris thanked B & G for continuing the street sign project by replicating the old signs. She also mentioned how nice the bus stops look now that they have been restored. There is one off Clear Creek and Wa-Pai-Shone and the other is on Gibson and Center Streets. Chris said the NIC often sends out posts and photos on Facebook informing the public on the activities and projects being done out here at Stewart.
- C. Terri asked if the Commission had any updates on the restoration of the football field. Sherry replied that the Commission has not had any further contact with Ian Hill on the project.
- D. Meg asked Marty if the new trees are looking better than they did in winter and Marty said that they are doing very well and not a single tree was lost through the winter.

IX. Discussion on Legislative Outcome for Stewart Indian School Initiatives

- A. Sherry stated that the legislative session is now over and the Major Budget Initiative had been submitted for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy and the Commission was successful in obtaining funding for a portion of that. In addition, the NIC received two new positions, a Museum Director and a Curator, which the Commission will hire in Fiscal Year 2017.
- B. On the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), the Commission received funding for design and construction documents for the welcome and information center as well as funding to put toward a Master Plan document for the Stewart Complex. Sherry said that because these are CIP funds, the SPWD will be managing it, along with input from the NIC, SHPO and State Lands.
- C. Sherry commented further on the CCA Grant that Chris had reported on in Item VII, saying that the NIC is working on design and construction documents for the Cultural Center.
- D. Assembly Bill (AB) 15 came out of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and was signed by the Governor on May 25, 2015. This piece of legislation sells two parcels of land at Clear Creek and will create an account where the proceeds of that sale will benefit the Stewart Indian School. A committee made up of the NIC, SHPO, State Lands, and SPWD will be established to prioritize where the funds will go.

- E. Senate Bill (SB) 63 was passed and signed by Governor Sandoval at a signing ceremony on May 14, 2015. Tribal leaders, community members, and Stewart advocates attended the ceremony in the Governor's office. With everybody gathered around his desk, the Governor spoke of his commitment to Stewart's preservation and expressed excitement about Stewart being developed into a cultural heritage destination.
- F. SB 63 also designates the NIC as the coordinating agency for activities and uses at the Stewart Indian School. This issue was addressed at the previous week's Commission Board Meeting and the recommendation was for the Stewart Advisory Committee to discuss the issue on how to proceed with this designation. Sherry asked the group how often the NIC should meet with the State stakeholders and for what reason? The NIC wants to be involved with activities at Stewart, but as a small office, the Commission needs to decide which projects to be involved in. Sherry commented that this new designation is something the Commission has been wanting and is welcomed greatly not only by the NIC, but by the tribal communities as well. Sherry stated that the Commission's intent is not to take over decision-making at Stewart, but to coordinate efforts and to utilize State resources in the best way for the preservation of the school. Meg asked which agencies will be involved and Sherry said the SHPO, SPWD to include Buildings and Grounds, and State Lands. Meg asked about the other agencies and what reactions they have had with the NIC's new designation. Ron commented that some people were concerned about their agencies being removed from the property, but he shared with them the NIC's vision of restoring Stewart by building the cultural center and welcome and information center.
- G. Buck thanked Sherry for getting him a copy of SB 63 that the Governor had signed and Sherry thanked Buck for his continued support and involvement. She also thanked Terri for her support and leadership during this legislative session. Sherry thanked the members of the Committee for showing their support and that their presence at the different functions throughout the session showed the legislators just how important Stewart is to so many people. Sherry went on to acknowledge the tribal leaders who came out to show their support of the NIC's efforts to preserve the Stewart Indian School. Sherry shared that the success of this year's legislative session was a team effort and she congratulated each member of the Committee on a job well done. Buck then thanked Sherry for all of her hard work and the Committee members followed suit in thanking Sherry.
- H. Sherry stated that the Commission will continue to work hard and will be inviting legislators out to tour the campus and show them why we are so passionate about this place. We need to keep them updated on our progress throughout the years until the next legislative session.

X. Update on Planning for the 2015 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

- A. Sherry is going to Reno to record radio ads for the Powwow that will begin running on Monday. Facebook ads will also be purchased with a grant from TravelNevada. So far, 19 craft booths, four Indian taco booths and two other food booths have been reserved and paid for. The Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee is moving toward adopting the Indian Arts and Crafts Act which prohibits misrepresentation of American Indian or Alaska Native arts and crafts products and advocates authenticity.
- B. Sherry mentioned that the Alumni Reception will be on June 18, 2015 from 6:00 – 8:00pm and will be in Building #1 again this year. Rachel said she would set up the Nevada State Museum collection and that Great Basin Artists will also display their art during the reception. Grace shared that Delphine Reina mentioned that she may want to set up a committee for the 1966 Alumni Reunion to be held at Stewart next year.

- C. Sherry shared that the Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be awarded the "Event of the Year" by the Carson City Chamber of Commerce. The NIC staff will attend the awards ceremony which will be held at the former Nevada State Prison on June 29, 2015.

XI. Update on Stewart Indian School Website Upgrade

- A. Chris reported that Bruce Rettig of Charter Advertising sent a draft homepage to review this week. The new website will be Smartphone and tablet-friendly and should be launched by June 30, 2015.

XII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. The new Stewart website
- B. An update on the NV 150 Oral History Project
- C. Status of the Non-profit
- D. Status of the Underrepresented Communities Grant
- E. Update on the Stewart Landscape Preservation Project
- F. Update on the Stewart Father's Day Powwow
- G. Update on the Stewart Collection

XIII. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be held Friday, August 7, 2015 at the Nevada Indian Commission office.

XIV. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry shared Geoff Dornan's article in the Nevada Appeal and commented on a few inaccuracies that were in the article.
- B. Sherry told the Committee to look in the May/June issue of Nevada Magazine as the photo from the Powwow flyer is in there.
- C. Terri said that she is involved in the Carson City Cultural Commission and she reports to them about the activities of the Stewart Advisory Committee.
- D. Meg commented that she attended the Leisure Hour Club meeting on May 20, 2015 at the Carson City Nugget. Sherry gave a presentation on the Stewart Indian School and both she and Meg agreed that the message was well received.

XV. Final Public Comment

- A. Meg said the ladies of the NIC are doing a great job. Grace said the NIC should be proud.
- B. Buck mentioned that a fighting exhibition will be held at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) July 3-4, 2015. Buck will be the official judge and timekeeper since he knows the fight business inside and out.
- C. Denise mentioned that some members of the Committee need to update their Appointment of Representative forms. The members are: Buck Sampson, Meg McDonald, Rachel Malloy, and Bonnie Thompson.

XVI. Adjournment

- A. Karyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rachel seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:43am.