

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014 - 8:30am-1:00pm

Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

Commissioners Present:

Richard Arnold, Chairman
William Oliver, Commissioner
Alvin Moyle, Commissioner
Jill Greiner, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Chris Gibbons, Program Officer I

Guests Present:

Lynn Manning, Coordinator, Indian Education Program, Washoe County School District
Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education
Larry Burton, Photographer, Nevada's Indian Territory
Paula Smith, Education Advisor, Nevada Urban Indians

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

Chairman Arnold convened the meeting at 8:48 am and asked Sherry to take roll. Four Commissioners were present, establishing a quorum.

II. Invocation

Chairman Arnold provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Arnold asked all those present to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

IV. Initial Public Comment

Paula Smith commented that she attended a Washoe County School District Trustee Board meeting and they mentioned that they want to start meeting with the community on education and early childhood education. She felt that this was a good thing.

V. Approval of May 30, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Oliver motioned to approve the May 30, 2013 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

VI. Approval of August 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Arnold commented that based on the Attorney General training he attended; agencies need to have a draft of meeting minutes available for the public if they are requested.

Commissioner Moyle motioned to approve the August 12, 2013 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 1 abstention (0 absent).

VII. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

Commissioner Moyle commented that he saw a program this morning on the TV about developing agricultural products for food consumption. Randy Emm is involved with developing greenhouses. He supports those tribes that want to develop greenhouses to supplement their tribes and wanted to know what the Commission could do to support these efforts.

Chairman Arnold stated that as the commission, the agency supports tribal initiatives to help support the local community. The Commission encourages this. In the State of the Union last night, one of the comments that resonated was the Made in America label and this is even more fitting as tribal people; making sure that tribes are benefiting and that the Commission is supporting this. This could potentially be a good economic development project. We can try to search out those tribes that are presently doing these activities and encourage others to join us in support of these efforts.

Commissioner Moyle suggested that maybe the Indian Commission could become involved through the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Cooperative Extension with Randy Emm.

Chairman Arnold mentioned there is a new group out of Las Vegas, Nevadans for Cultural Preservation. The group does preservation events and outreach projects. He thinks that the Indian Commission could look at gathering information and potentially partner with this entity. Some research needs to be done to make sure this is an appropriate partner. The Indian Commission should still get some copies of their flyers for the office.

Chairman Arnold also mentioned that it is very important to receive written reports and especially those that are on standing committees. If no report, they could be allocated just 5 minutes on the agenda for an overview, as the reports have been requested a head of time. The Indian Commission should be able to provide this information to the public.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert

Sherry briefly shared highlights from her report and the current Budget Status Reports for both the operating budget and the gift account.

She congratulated Chairman Arnold on his reappointment to the Board for an additional 3-year term and let the Board know that there is still one “general public” vacancy on the Board. The general public appointment raises an interesting question; are American Indians part of the general public and should they be considered for the general public vacancy. Chairman Arnold suggested that this could almost be considered reverse discrimination. He feels a person could be appointed regardless of their ethnicity and could still bring a unique perspective.

Sherry commented that she would like to discuss a solution to this issue under her next topic of discussion, Commission top policy initiatives and budget priorities. She is suggesting a statute revision that would clarify the term, “general public.”

Commissioner Moyle supports this perspective as he knows of a person that is interested that is half native and half non-native and could go either way. Sherry mentioned that there were approximately eight others that have submitted their applications to the Governor’s Office for consideration, but are not being considered for the general public opening as they are all American Indian. Chairman Arnold stated that the Commission is not trying to circumvent the law, but looking at it from the best interests of the Commission.

Commissioner Oliver wondered if the Governor would provide an Executive Order, prior to the statute change that could take a year and a half to two years. Sherry responded that the language that calls for two members of the Commission from the general public comes from a law, the NIC statute, and that we can have a discussion with the Governor’s Office on their interpretation of the term, before moving forward with any other action.

Commissioner Moyle mentioned that because of the purpose of the Commission, and the fact that we have a job to do, those that are willing to serve should be able to do so.

Commissioner Greiner, as a non-native member, believes that the best way to go is to revise the law. If there are others interested, then it shouldn't matter if they are native or non-native. She believes the Governor would be very receptive to this matter. Sherry will have this conversation with the Governor's Office.

Sherry reported that she is recruiting for an Administrative Assistant III and has received the list from Division of Human Resource Management.

Sherry highlighted some of her visits out to the tribes and Chairman Arnold suggested that Sherry also solicit emerging issues from the tribes on these visits. Sherry mentioned that even though her visits are focused on economic development and tourism, other issues are being shared. She plans to put together a report for the Commission and the Governor's Office on these tribal visits once they are complete.

Commissioner Moyle mentioned that he has quite a bit of experience in tribal government and explained that the process of federal funding to come to the tribes for transportation is lengthy and involved with that is planning. There should be someone within the tribe that is the planner. He also mentioned that this is a team effort and he likes that the Commission can facilitate those discussions.

A. Discussion on Items to be Considered in the 2015 Legislative Session

Sherry went through her summary of top policy initiatives and budget priorities with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Oliver motioned to approve the Executive Director report with top policy initiatives and budget priorities as discussed, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

A 10 minute break was taken at this time.

IX. Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC)

A. Presentation and Discussion of TECAC Appointment of Representative Forms for Possible Approval

Chairman Arnold commented that the TECAC Appointment of Representative Forms have been included in the packets and have already been approved by their respective committee and are seeking ratification at this level. Chairman Arnold would also like to have copies of the standing committee member listing. The request was for approval of four Appointment of Representative Forms for Zannetta Hanks, Patricia Orders, Lori Schoen, and Stephanie Wyatt.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve four Appointment of Representative Forms for Zannetta Hanks, Patricia Orders, Lori Schoen, and Stephanie Wyatt to the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Brief Overview of TECAC Projects and Activities

Sherry Ely Mendes was unable to be in attendance, but provided a written report to the Commission.

Commissioner Oliver motioned to approve the TECAC report as submitted by Sherry Ely Mendes, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

X. EDUCATION

A. Presentation and Discussion of IEAC Appointment of Representative Forms for Possible Approval

The request was for approval of six Appointment of Representative forms for Fredina Drye-Romero, Jillian Fillmore, Lynn Manning, Lori Pasqua, Paula Smith, and Mary Williams.

Commissioner Moyle motioned to approve the six Appointment of Representative Forms of Fredina Drye-Romero, Jillian Fillmore, Lynn Manning, Lori Pasqua, Paula Smith, and Mary Williams to the IEAC, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Brief Overview of Indian Education Advisory Committee Activities

Lynn Manning apologized for not having a written report. She outlined the committee member make up and stated that they are very involved. They have a solid group of people that are active and committed. They are currently working on the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) 2016 Convention, October 4-8, 2016. The group has not been given much direction yet. Lynn mentioned that Fredina has been asked to serve on the NIEA 2014 convention planning committee. NIEA is planning to attend the Nevada Indian Education Summit and the Nevada Planning Committee will visit with them then. The group will be doing an assessment on the strategic plan. Lynn also reported that she was appointed to the English Mastery Council by Superintendent Dale Erquiaga. The Council is mainly made up of Hispanic members, with the goal to have English language learners master the English language so they can become college and career ready. The Council's first meeting was early January and meetings will be monthly. The Chair of the Mastery Council is Magdalena Martinez.

C. Update on Current Indian Education Program Activities

Fredina Drye-Romero also apologized for not submitting a written report. She reported that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) hosts four seasonal events: Nevada American Indian Alaska Native Education Summit, Curriculum Retreat, Language and History Symposium, and a Higher Education Workshop. The Language and History Symposium is new and took place on January 17-18th. From this event they will be developing an iPad App for Southern Paiute. This is a collaborative effort with the Clark County School District. They are looking at funding sources to support tribal language.

Fredina has been in her position for 7 years and the Summit is in its 7th year.

She is working on NDE fulfillments: dropout prevention webinars and a lesson plan webinar. She is also working with the WestEd Comprehensive Center. And, she is on the convention planning committee for the 2014 NIEA Convention.

She will also be working with Owyhee and McDermitt schools on their planning and how they support family engagement.

Commissioner Oliver inquired of statistics on American Indians in higher education. Fredina will leave the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) report.

Commissioner Moyle commented about the Spirit Cave Man and a study by David Hirsch. He would like to let Winter Carrera or Fredina use this resource.

Sherry mentioned that it was her interaction with the Superintendent at a Governor's cabinet meeting that started the conversation about the curriculum guide and prompted visits with Fredina in regard to the curriculum guide. The meetings have been very beneficial to the Commission and the initiatives we are working on.

Chairman Arnold commented that if we could get the curriculum in statute that is something that is required in the school districts, this puts it in black and white so all expectations are clear. This will institutionalize items such as this for the best interests of Indian people.

Senator Reid's letter for the Language and History Symposium was very strong and this could be used in our future efforts. Fredina mentioned that the Symposium was very well attended and all Southern Bands were invited, even from Utah. The greatest compliment came from her dad; he mentioned that the leadership that is now in place for the Indian Commission, her position at NDE and in education statewide has shown great improvement.

Chairman Arnold commented that it's all about timing and there is support from the Administration, Governor, and the Superintendent.

Chairman Arnold suggested Sherry send an email out to standing committee chairs requesting reports be turned in in advance of the Commissioner packets being sent out. Sherry will send an email to the standing committee chairs after this meeting for the next two Nevada Indian Commission meetings.

Commissioner Moyle asked how much Fredina works with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN). Fredina replied that she addresses them at the convention, but she hasn't asked for anything specific. Commissioner Moyle wants this to be a combined effort and wants the Indian Commission involved. He would like to see this information driven home to the ITCN. This is so important that it needs to be shared with the leadership. This will contribute to the families to be once again be united. Timing is important and there are new Chairmen and it needs to be driven home to them.

Chairman Arnold expressed that there are people with expertise with helping ITCN to develop things.

Chairman Arnold commented about the American Indian exhibit at the airport. The name for the Southern Paiute is incorrect; it should be "Nu-wu." It is in two places on the stone map and on the rock heading. Sherry commented that this can be corrected. There are different dialects, they are subtle, but are very important.

Lynn commented that this is the challenge of standardized language into written form. We are creating new dialects. Chairman Arnold commented that this attempt creates more of a challenge as a lot of our words don't translate clearly into English. There has to be a balance on correcting language learners as they may get discouraged from learning.

Fredina wants to have a statewide language board. She will be meeting in February to begin the conversation. She has extra copies of the book that was given out at the Symposium and will get to Sherry to include in Commissioner Packets for the next meeting.

XI. STEWART

A. Report on 2013 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

Sherry had the Commissioners draw their attention to the debrief comments that were provided in their meeting packets. There were 136 seats out of 140 seats sold; two of the tables were used for silent auction items. There is the potential for growth, but the Governor's Mansion has a maximum seating of 160. It is believed that the Governor's Mansion is a draw and to move it may not be the best thing. The Commission was able to get certificates from all of Nevada's Congressional delegation. Good sponsorships were able to be secured ahead of time as requests were sent out in August. The positive feedback that has been received includes that the event was well organized and stayed on time and within the 5-8pm timeframe. There was also a dedicated Silent Auction Coordinator this year and 5 volunteers. Mike Bates did a great job again this year taking photos of the event, the Commissioners and the award recipients. The banquet for 2014 has

been tentatively set for Saturday, November 8th so it does not conflict with other tribal events. There was a lot of great feedback this year on the drum group and traditional storytellers from throughout Nevada.

Sherry encouraged ideas on possible entertainment for this year's banquet. Her intent has been to showcase American Indian talent from Nevada, but she wanted to know the Board's thought on American Indian talent from other areas across the nation.

Chairman Arnold suggested that the ITCN may have a listing of entertainment that they've used in the past.

Sherry then discussed areas in which the banquet could be improved. Many of the attendees ask the attire for the evening, so she would like to include this information on the save the date and the website. They would like to have everyone pay ahead of time so there is not the backup at the entry and have the silent auction lots listed in the program and on the website so people could plan their bidding prior to even getting to the event. Chairman Arnold suggested that in order to encourage individuals to pay ahead, that we would charge extra to pay at the door. Sherry mentioned that they are checking into utilizing credit card payment for silent auction items; it is felt that more people would bid and buy if they could use their credit cards. It was also felt that more of the high dollar items are needed in order to raise more money and that they would be getting rid of the guaranteed bid for the silent auction. They are planning to get nomination forms out even earlier this year. The rentals for the event are usually picked up, but this coming year they will have them delivered and picked up.

Commissioner Arnold suggested working with the local Chamber of Commerce to see who's going to be in town around the time of the banquet. The Commission has shared the costs of entertainment with other organizations in the past and could do this again. Chairman Arnold commented that the mansion is an attractive venue. He also liked the entertainment this year, as it brought back memories. He further commented that the banquet also helps to showcase American Indian talent.

Sherry is to explore banquet entertainment options for the Board's consideration.

Chairman Arnold pointed out that the photos of the Commissioners should be color photos in this year's program.

Sherry mentioned that the banquet proceeds raised approximately \$7,000 and this needs to be doubled this next year. There is a need for more sponsorship or banks to sponsor, then those corporate tickets could be donated back to individuals that cannot afford those tickets otherwise. Sherry asked the Commissioners if they knew of anyone in their communities that could sponsor. Chairman Arnold also suggested that Commissioners should be represented in the program through the business card ads. This could be added onto the Commissioner contributions or their contribution could include the business card ad.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

Commissioner Arnold mentioned that scholarships are a way to also raise money for Stewart. It's hard for some companies to contribute to a banquet, but they can contribute to a scholarship. This could be announced at the banquet in November or at the Education Summit in March. Sherry could work with the IEAC to establish the parameters. And, maybe the universities could match what we have.

Commissioner Greiner suggested that the Commission would have to establish set criteria; could have a requirement to do something for the Indian Community or have to volunteer some time. Chairman Arnold thought that this was a good opportunity to help generate some funds.

Chris commented that the Commission gets a lot of requests for scholarships. It would be great to have a Commission scholarship.

Commissioner Greiner cautioned that we would not want to have the scholarship too small. We want to make it worth the effort.

At this time, a break for lunch was taken.

B. Report on Stewart History and Preservation Project

Chris briefly went over her written report with the Commissioners. The first item on her list was a briefing on the Stewart Indian School preservation project. She briefly went through the briefing document that was submitted to the Governor's Office.

Chairman Arnold asked if there was going to be an impact on folks if there is a Landmark designation of the Stewart Facility. Chris commented that there could potentially be some impact on others currently at the facility.

Chris went through the meetings that she and Sherry have had with other state agencies and shared a map and listing of the Stewart buildings.

Chairman Arnold would like to see suggestions on how the "Friends of the Stewart Indian School" would work. His only concern is that the two entities are in sync and complement each other. He would like this issue to come back to the Board with some suggestions.

Chairman Arnold suggested that the Cultural Center could have a little post card with an old post mark that people could have and walk around with it. A gentleman had a piece of the metal roofing and they had taken it and they cut it and put a historic photo of the building on it and used it at a silent auction. The Commission could save the shingles from the original roofs and put a photo on it as a fundraiser. The Commission could put them on exhibit here in the Commission office for sale in case someone wants to buy it. This person is willing to donate this to the Commission.

Commissioner Greiner commented that kids love scavenger hunts. This is something the Commission could do even before everything is developed. Chris mentioned that this is something that she and Sherry have discussed for school groups when they come to tour Stewart. Chris also mentioned geocaching would be something else for people to come and explore.

Chris also mentioned that the Welcome Center could also have designs and plans displayed that could help to build excitement for the project.

Chairman Arnold added that he still likes the bricks to buy and they could be used for the outline of the pool or the buildings.

Chris further reported that there is not a master plan for the Stewart Facility, but it is supposedly included in the Capitol Complex Master Plan. There will be an additional conversation with the Governor's Office on this subject.

Chairman Arnold mentioned that the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act has funds for projects in the south. There is another group in Lincoln County for projects. He doesn't know if there is anything here in the north. The Congressional delegation may be able to grease the wheel.

Chris and Sherry drove around the facility and there is nothing that says anything about the Historic Stewart Indian School. There is a need for new signage especially with the new bypass coming in.

Commissioner Moyle added that he would like to see the Commission be the voice for the master plan group. Sherry commented that the Commission will definitely be a part of the master plan.

C. Report on Preparations for the 2014 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Sherry reported that the Powwow Committee has been meeting regularly. The Powwow is in receipt of two grants: Nevada Arts Council Project Grant (\$3,296) and a Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grant (\$2,650). The Committee also submitted a Projects Related to Tourism Grant to purchase infrastructure items (event tents, picnic tables and a stage) for Indian Territory events. A determination on this grant will be made in March/April 2014. The Powwow has been designated as a Signature Event for the Sesquicentennial and will be themed as the Stewart Father's Day Sesquicentennial Powwow.

The Commission would like to move toward compliance with the Native American Arts and Crafts Act for their Powwow vendors.

XII. Report on Indian Territory Projects and Activities

Chris Gibbons, Treasurer for the Indian Territory provided the Commission with a written report. She briefly went through the highlights of her report.

Sherry encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference.

XIII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Suggestions for future agenda items included: Chris' report to include discussion on the Stewart Master Plan, other written reports for NIC standing committees, and a draft survey for summit topics. Any other requests for agenda items can be forwarded to Sherry.

Commissioner Moyle suggested attending the next ITCN meeting to update them on the Stewart Indian School initiative. Sherry thought that she could request a resolution to support the change in the NIC statute and the funding for Phase I of this initiative (Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Welcome Center). This resolution would be very helpful as we move into the Legislative Session. Commissioner Moyle would like to attend with Sherry and assist with this agenda item.

XIV. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

The next Nevada Indian Commission Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at the Nevada Indian Commission and the final meeting of the fiscal year will take place on Friday, May 30, 2014. Sherry will email the Commissioners to make sure there will be a quorum.

Commissioner Moyle motioned to approve the remaining Indian Commission meeting dates for the fiscal year, March 25 and May 30, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

Sherry asked the Board if the meetings being held at the NIC office was working for them. She suggested that they could go back to videoconference as there was more attendance when videoconference was available.

Chairman Arnold prefers to be present at the meeting, but would like staff to check into other options to have others participate (i.e.Goto Meetings) in NIC Board meetings.

XV. Final Public Comment

No public comment.

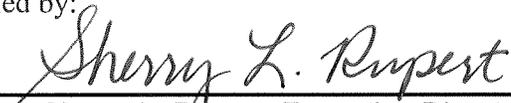
XVI. Adjournment

Commissioner Oliver motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, 0 absent, at a meeting duly held on May 28, 2014.

Certified by:



Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission