

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 28, 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
Deborah Larson, Administrative Assistant III

Guests Present:

Larry Burton, Photographer, Nevada's Indian Territory
Chris LeBlanc, Heritage Consultant, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR)
Lori Pasqua, Pre-College Advisor, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California
Kim Robinson, Senior Attorney, Nevada Legal Services

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

Chairman Arnold convened the meeting at 8:49 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

There was no initial public comment.

V. Approval of January 29, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the January 29, 2014 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

VI. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

Chairman Arnold has been traveling and keeping the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) close and in mind with the things that he is doing. A lady working for a casino in Minnesota looked Richard up on the NIC website and was impressed with what we are doing with the Stewart Indian School. At the Prairie Island Indian community there is a nuclear power plant just yards away from their reservation. The community wants to move it out to Nevada. There are tribal people in Nevada that may not want the power plant either. He was sharing positive story about the NIC and Stewart.

VII. 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.

Commissioner Moyle would like to see as many of the Stewart buildings preserved as possible, including the ones that aren't currently being used. He further commented that the tribes could look at grant funding to assist in the preservation of the school.

Lori Pasqua commented that that was a great idea. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California has one of the Stewart buildings. This building used to be used for the Tribe's Cultural Resource Office.

Chairman Arnold mentioned that tribes could potentially sponsor preservation of a building; they could get recognition that they are helping to preserve. They could work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and this could be coordinated through the NIC.

Commissioner Moyle commented that the Stewart Master Plan could include tribes throughout the state to assist. This is a big part of history in the early years.

In her report Sherry mentioned that she had visited 16 tribes and their tribal councils focusing on economic development and tourism and that one of the recurring themes was that the tribes find it difficult to obtain funding for their economic development projects, as they don't own the land; the land is in trust for the tribes. Chairman Arnold mentioned that the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) may be a resource and the Small Business Administration (SBA) for tribal businesses. Gaming tribes have also provided loans to other tribes to help them start up businesses. The Commission could come up with resources for consideration or a reference document for the tribes or coordinate a meeting to link people together to have tribal people meet with lenders.

Commissioner Moyle commented that the tribes could develop a master plan. He used Duck Valley as an example; they could develop some of their natural resources or cattle as beef producers. There are other tribes with other resources.

Chairman Arnold added that those tribes could be a partner with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) and there could be an agenda item there. The Commission does not want to appear to tell the tribes what to do. It was suggested that there should be a subcommittee either under ITCN or under the NIC that would start to focus on economic development.

Commissioner Moyle inquired whether this fell within the authority of what the NIC could do. Chairman Arnold suggested that the Governor's Office on Economic Development could include tribes in what they do.

Chairman Arnold suggested that this is an emerging theme with the tribes, and the NIC should make sure that tribes are a part of the economic development discussion at the state level.

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 Greiner commented that the amount that the NIC is requesting for the Stewart initiative is a large amount. Chairman Arnold commented that the NIC is being progressive in our approach and if you don't ask you don't get. Sherry commented that she has been talking to everyone about the Stewart initiative and building those relationships that could assist with the project.

Sherry mentioned that the initiative American Indian Curriculum Guide initiative will not be moving forward this legislative session. It will have to be done administratively for now. She mentioned that she

has had initial discussions with Superintendent Erquiaga that have been very positive. Chairman Arnold suggested that if we move forward and if there is a fiscal impact that potentially the tribes for other outside sources could financially support this effort.

B. Update on Requested Attorney General Opinion

Sherry explained that she had requested an Attorney General Opinion based on the recommendation from the Deputy Chief of Staff, Jackie Bryant. The Attorney General request was to clarify what the term “general public” means in the NIC’s governing statute. The NIC would like to know if the general public seats on the NIC can also include candidates that are American Indians. The opinion has been drafted and should make its way to the NIC very soon.

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

A 5 minute recess was taken at this time.

VIII. Update on University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Field School (Stewart Indian School) Report and Findings

Christopher LeBlanc reported on the collaborative archaeology and preservation project that took place last summer. Christopher went through some of the preliminary findings during the field school. He reported that they had used ground penetrating radar and believes they found the original school building, remnants of the swimming pool, early buildings near the hospital, and various structural materials (cut and wire nails) and personal items (marbles, beads, toys, rivets, buttons and combs). The artifacts are being entered into a database and Ashley, Field Supervisor, is working on the statistics of the artifacts.

The field school provided a vast amount of public awareness of the Stewart Indian School. The story went out and was picked up by over 50 news agencies.

Some of the conclusions that they came up with was that collaboration made the project successful, there was learning through critical discussions, the field school practiced fluidity when adapting to changes as they presented themselves. He was sure that this would be a model for future collaborative projects with indigenous peoples. The final report will be published next year (approximately a year and a half) and will include a GIS component.

Christopher mentioned that the next step is to get all of the voices into the report. This is a multi-vocal approach, which is a different approach as there had only been one voice before.

Lori Pasqua asked how many American Indian students participated in the field school. Christopher responded that one third of the crew was American Indian.

Commissioner Greiner asked Christopher if he had considered doing a documentary. He replied that there currently wasn’t funding for this work to be completed.

Chairman Arnold confirmed that the NIC would receive a copy of the PowerPoint and historic photos used for this presentation, for NIC records and future use. Christopher also mentioned that when the Stewart Indian Cultural Center opens, that they could potentially approach UNR for use of the items that were excavated during this project. Chairman Arnold commented that he was very pleased to see the results as it gives us a glimpse of the past in these selected areas.

A 5 minute recess was taken at this time.

IX. Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC)

A. Report on TECAC Projects and Activities

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

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

X. EDUCATION

A. Possible Approval Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) Appointment of Representative Forms

Sherry requested approval of three Appointment of Representative forms for Laura Watters, Dr. Christopher A. Kypuros, and Patrick V. Naranjo.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the three Appointment of Representative forms for Laura Watters, Dr. Christopher A. Kypuros and Patrick V. Naranjo to the IEAC, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Report on IEAC Activities

Lynn Manning was unable to be in attendance, but provided a written report to the Commission. Sherry briefly highlighted the contents of the report.

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

C. Report on Current Indian Education Program Activities

Fredina Drye-Romero was unable to be in attendance, but provided a written report to the Commission. Sherry briefly highlighted the contents of the report.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) report as submitted by Fredina Drye-Romero, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

XI. STEWART

A. Possible Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms

The request was for approval of two Appointment of Representative forms for Terri McBride and Karyn deDufour.

Commissioner Oliver motioned to approve the two Appointment of Representative Forms of Terri McBride and Karyn deDufour to the Stewart Advisory Committee, seconded by Commissioner Greiner. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Report on Stewart History and Preservation Project

Chris briefly went over her written report with the Commissioners. Chris mentioned that the Nevada Arts Council held their Arts Town Meeting at Stewart Indian School and the NIC provided information on the Stewart Indian School. With over 40 in attendance, all groups mentioned that the Stewart Indian School is very important.

The NIC gave Buildings and Grounds suggestions on projects for landscape projects in accordance with the Stewart Indian School landscape preservation plan. And, a group of state employees have donated the funds for a bench at one of the stops along the Stewart Indian School Trail.

Chris mentioned that the NIC has received a small grant on Building #2, which was the original Post Office. Nevada Indian Legal Service used to be in Building #2. Chairman Arnold mentioned that we could use the tiles from Building #2 as gifts to legislators, providing awareness of Stewart and they would have a piece of Stewart.

Chris also reported that the alumni reception will be held in Building #1 as water has been restored to the building. This will be the first year in the building and is another step in getting the building open.

Chairman Arnold thought that a compelling graphic could be a map for Stewart (original; what it was) and what it is now. We can show where we've had an impact to the campus. This could help with legislators and could be very compelling. He also thought that an ethnobotanical (native vegetation) could tell the story of what grew around here naturally and what they were used for.

Commissioner Moyle motioned to approve the report on the Stewart History Project, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

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

Sherry reported that the Powwow Committee has been meeting regularly and has been designated as a signature event for the Sesquicentennial celebration. All food vendors have been filled and 13 arts and crafts vendors have already paid. The construction on Snyder may be an issue, but the Nevada Department of Transportation is assisting with signage on Carson Street again. New this year, will be a tented seating area for Powwow attendees to enjoy their Indian tacos.

Commissioner Oliver motioned to approve the Report on Preparations for the 2014 Stewart Father's Day Powwow, seconded by Commissioner Greiner. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

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.

The Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency Incline Village. There were over 50 in attendance, which is the highest attendance to date. One of the workshops was on geocaching. It was suggested that the Stewart Indian School may be a good geocaching site. The conference was covered in the media and Senator Reid provided a video to welcome attendees to the conference and also mentioned the conference in his "Reid All About It" column.

Chairman Arnold again inquired of the status of the incorrect spelling of southern Paiute at the airport exhibit; could use a reader board to promote current events. Chris responded that this would be corrected.

Commissioner Moyle inquired if the Western Shoshone cradleboard maker had already been selected. He knows someone in Duck Valley that is making cradleboards that may be a prospect for the cradleboard. Chris requested contact information.

Chairman Arnold mentioned that it would be nice if there were a listing of our American Indian artisans. Chris mentioned that the Indian Territory has an artist listing on the Indian Territory website.

Commissioner Moyle mentioned that he worked on the Spirit Cave Man and has a lot of information on the Paiute people. This was done by the Indian Claims Commission. Alvin can bring these maps over for NIC use.

Commissioner Oliver asked if it would be feasible to bring in Mike Williams for a demonstration at the Powwow. We could plan to bring artists into the cultural center.

Commissioner Moyle had a discussion with a person on trails of Nevada, and they wanted to make contact with Larry Burton.

Commissioner Moyle motioned to approve the Report on Indian Territory Activities, seconded by Commissioner Greiner. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

XIII. Discussion and Planning for Nevada Tribal Summit

Sherry explained that instead of a survey, she would like to approach the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada to see if there is interest and any suggestions for topic areas.

Commissioner Moyle said that he testified on repatriation in Santa Fe and picked up a book in his hotel room that has a profile and calendar of events. These are the tribes of New Mexico that have contributed to this book. This publication gives information on each of their tribes and what they are doing today.

Chairman Arnold commented that the southwest has a presence, and we could be that here in Nevada. There are a lot of opportunities for Nevada and the more that we can help get the word out the better. We are sitting on a gold mine here and we know it. It is challenging to get people to complete surveys, and we need to hear from the tribes instead of defining ourselves.

Commissioner Moyle confirmed that there are numerous items that come across tribal leadership's desk, and there are some tribes more into it than others. It is important for the young leaders to know their roots.

Chairman Arnold stated that we are not trying to exploit, but to share respectfully. Otherwise, we lose precious resources.

Lori Pasqua suggested the idea to have a Nevada Indian Commission Summit. This could bring back the NIC history, as the NIC has been the structure and guidance for the tribes.

Chairman Arnold commented that the NIC started and had a certain focus based upon what was going on in the communities. The NIC wants to be more facilitative and needs to channel it in and collaborate more.

Commissioner Moyle stated that the younger generation is now entering into the tribal government leadership and don't know the past. This information has to be shared now and not later. Getting the message out to tribal leaders on the importance of tribal history/culture should be included.

XIV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Suggestions for future agenda items included: Stewart Master Plan, Tribal Summit update, other written reports for NIC standing committees, and budget and legislative update. Any other requests for agenda items can be forwarded to Sherry.

XV. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

The next Nevada Indian Commission Board meeting was scheduled for August 28, 2014.

Commissioner Oliver motioned to approve the next Indian Commission meeting date, August 28, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Greiner. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

XVI. Final Public Comment

Christopher LeBlanc mentioned that they may be able to assist with geocaching at the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference.

Chairman Arnold suggested that the NIC may want to consider guidance in regard to geocaching on the campus.

Chris mentioned that the current cache site is off the Stewart Indian School boundaries.

Chairman Arnold cautioned that the NIC has to be careful on some of this. We need to continue to promote respect and dignity. A cache could be on the walking tour.

Lori mentioned that the Washoe Tribe has bill boards on Hwy 395 that could be used to advertise the Stewart Father’s Day Powwow. This would have to be a discussion with the Washoe Tribe, but maybe they could be donation to the Powwow.

Lori also mentioned that she is interested in bringing back the Miss Indian Nevada pageant, possibly at the Nevada Tribal Summit.

XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Oliver motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

<p>CERTIFICATION</p> <p>It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 1 abstention, 0 absent, at a meeting duly held on May 27, 2015.</p> <p>Certified by:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sherry L. Rupert</i> 5/27/15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director Nevada Indian Commission</p>
