

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 26, 2014 - 8:30am-1:00pm

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

Commissioners Present:

Richard Arnold, Chairman
Kathleen Quasula, Commissioner
Alvin Moyle, Commissioner
Jill Greiner, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Chris Gibbons, Program Officer I
Denise Becker, Administrative Assistant III

Guests Present:

Larry Burton, Photographer, Nevada's Indian Territory
Mary Works Covington, Community Arts Development Program Coordinator, Nevada Arts Council
Scott Carey, Events Manager, Nevada 150

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

Chairman Arnold convened the meeting at 8:38 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. Chairman Arnold welcomed Ms. Becker to the Commission and noted that this was her first meeting.

IV. Initial Public Comment

There was no initial public comment.

V. Administration of the Oath of Office for New Commissioner

This item was tabled until the next meeting when Commissioner Quasula could attend in person.

VI. Approval of May 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes

This item was tabled until the next meeting. The minutes will be forwarded upon completion.

VII. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

Chairman Arnold wanted to share some thoughts about the passing of Commissioner William Oliver. Commissioner Oliver passed about a month ago and was a champion and key supporter of the Stewart Indian School. He was a third generation employee of the Stewart Indian School and served on the Stewart Advisory Committee and the Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee. He set a standard on what real commitment is for others.

Sherry shared that she and Commissioner Moyle attended Mr. Oliver's memorial service and presented the family with a photo of Bill, the written transcript of his Stewart Indian School Trail stop and the audio as well. Sherry also mentioned that Bill came to all of the Nevada Indian Commission's (NIC) events and was one of their most generous and avid supporters. He will be missed tremendously.

Chairman Arnold also mentioned that the Governor signed a Nevada Indian Day proclamation. Chairman Arnold read the proclamation to the attendees. Sherry mentioned that the proclamation has been forwarded to the Nevada Tribes for their use and is a focus of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony commemoration today. We are appreciative of the Governor's support and recognition. This shows progressive and positive things that we are doing here in Nevada.

Before moving on Sherry mentioned that former Commissioner, Mary Ann McAuliffe had sent a letter conveying her condolences for the passing of Commissioner Oliver.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert

Sherry brought attention to the new Commissioner Packet format. She also thanked Denise for her work on this as did the Commissioners. The meeting information is now all in one place, in order and very professional looking.

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

- She mentioned that the General Public vacancy on the NIC Board has been filled by Kathleen Quasula and a Native American vacancy on the Commission was created by the passing of Vice-Chairman William Oliver.
- The Administrative Assistant III position has been filled by Denise Becker on August 11, 2014.
- She shared statistics on the 2014 Stewart Father's Day Powwow that came out of the surveys that were completed by powwow attendees: 30% were from out-of-state, and 85% visited Carson City specifically for the powwow, 24% stayed in local hotels, 69% were returnees and 31% were first-time attendees.
- Sherry participated in the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of Nevada's China Office in July.
- The NIC will be co-hosting an Honoring Reception for the Centennial Indian Princess Contestants that will be held October 30, 2014 from 5:30pm-9:30pm at the Gold Dust West Hotel and Casino in Carson City, NV.
- Sherry testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs at their hearing on June 25, 2014 in Washington DC. The hearing's focus was on continued investment in Indian Country economic development.
- Sherry was also invited and participated in the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee Roundtable, July 16, 2014 in Washington DC.

A. Discussion on Current Budget and Proposed Budget Request

Sherry went through her summary of top policy initiatives and budget priorities with the Commissioners. She shared that all documents for the NIC and the Stewart Indian School initiative budget requests and bill draft requests were submitted by the deadlines. Sherry mentioned that she was able to provide historical information to the Budget Division, Governor's Office, and Legislative Council Bureau staff on the Stewart Indian School. This was very important as many of those key staff are new to the Nevada Indian Commission and did not have much background on the significance of the Stewart Indian School.

Commissioner Greiner 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).

IX. Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC)

A. Report on TECAC Projects and Activities

Sherry Ely Mendes was unable to attend, and a report was not provided as the committee did not meet over the summer.

X. EDUCATION

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

Sherry explained that there was one request for approval of one Appointment of Representative Form for Lance West, Principal, Ft. McDermitt Combined Schools. Mr. West is American Indian and is the new Principal at the Ft. McDermitt Combined Schools and Mrs. Lynn Manning John is the new Principal at the Owyhee Combined Schools.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the Appointment of Representative form for Lance West to the IEAC, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Report on IEAC Activities

Sherry reported that Lynn Manning John was unable to be in attendance as she is on maternity leave. Therefore, Lori Pasqua, Vice Chairman of the Committee provided a written report on behalf of the IEAC. Sherry briefly highlighted the written report and mentioned that the IEAC Strategic Planning Subcommittee is revising the Indian Education Strategic Plan.

Chairman Arnold commented that it is timely to revisit the Strategic Plan and he is encouraged to see the progress that is being made in this area.

Commissioner Moyle motioned to approve the IEAC report as submitted by Lori Pasqua, seconded by Commissioner Greiner. 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 provided brief highlights of the report. The NIC is assisting Fredina on higher education workshops that will focus on the higher education goals that are included in the NIC's Indian Education Strategic Plan for the state. These workshops will take place in the north and the south. It was noted that retention continues to be an issue for our American Indian students and American Indian representation on education committees is vital in having our tribal voices heard. There is a need to improve the process.

Commissioner Greiner mentioned that the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) has a low retention rate overall. She commented that she believes that mentors are key to student success. She also suggested that a dorm with a higher percentage of American Indians may be a good idea.

Chairman Arnold commented that universities can be intimidating and sometimes university students feel like just a number sometimes. The Nevada System of Higher Education somehow needs to figure out what the mechanism is to increase attendance and completion. He mentioned that he thought that tourism is a key component; it is a natural, it is key to any kind of business. The Board is committed to be supportive in whatever it takes to realize an increase in degree completion.

Sherry mentioned UNR's Center for Student Cultural Diversity and Saundra Mitrovich and how hard she works on the retention of American Indian students. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) currently does not have a center like this, but Patrick Naranjo (at UNLV) is looking at that model. Sherry said that when she attended UNR she was very thankful for the Center for Student Cultural Diversity and the Native American Student Organization. She believes this is what helped her to attain her degree; she was able to find other native people on campus.

Chairman Arnold commented that there are some American Indian students that are not part of the student organization. There should be some sort of support mechanism for students that would lead them to these organizations and the support that they need.

Commissioner Moyle commented that the high cost of higher education may be an obstacle for families. He recommended that there be additional discussions with tribes at the ITCN level on education. He further suggested attending the education committee meetings at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and getting on their agenda. This could lead to more education dollars for the tribal education departments. Chairman Arnold agreed that the cost of higher education can be intimidating to families.

Chairman Arnold suggested that maybe there could be a handbook developed to share resources that are available to American Indian students.

Commissioner Quasula mentioned that she will be speaking to the UNLV law school on Monday. This may be another way to give some exposure to the Commission and engage students and keep them in Nevada.

Sherry mentioned that there are over 20 scholarships available to American Indian students at UNR and the Veterans Services Department also offers scholarships. Once she receives more information on these scholarships Sherry will share this with the IEAC. The students and families have to take responsibility as well and apply for these funds.

Chairman Arnold suggested too that we need to do a better job of assisting and encouraging those students and families to apply. They may not have done this before and need assistance.

Commissioner Greiner said that the problem is also that school counselors are not always up on the resources that are available. There is a huge gap on the number of students that are actually attending college.

Sherry shared that through the NIC's Indian Education Advisory Committee, that there is a regional career fair that the group is discussing on partnering with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe. They want the youth to know that there are native people in varied professions. Chairman Arnold commented that people need to recognize that there are a lot of American Indian professionals out there that are great role models and still retain their culture.

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).

Sherry commented that the Indian Education Strategic Plan that is being revised covers many of these issues and she will make sure that the suggestions made during this meeting are incorporated into the revised version. She also stated that once the Strategic Plan has been updated the committee will make a presentation to the ITCN. Chairman Arnold recommended that Commissioner Moyle participate when we present to the ITCN so he can share his thoughts. Sherry will also forward the Strategic Plan to the

Commissioners for further comment and suggestions. She provided Commissioner Moyle with a hard copy at the meeting.

XI. STEWART

A. Discussion on Skye Stephenson Letter and Possible Donation

Sherry explained that she had received a letter from Skye Stephenson, a descendent of William Morris Stewart who helped to establish the Stewart Indian School. Ms. Stephenson and her family members were interested in making a public apology and donating items to the Stewart Indian School Museum. She wanted to get advice from the Commissioners on how to handle this request.

Chairman Arnold stated that he had mixed emotions about the Stephenson letter. One cannot erase what happened in the past here. He agreed that Mr. Stewart was a man of his time. It was a part of the history here. If the family feels compelled to offer an apology that is fine. The discussion should be focused on the appropriate time to do this. The banquet is a celebration and this may detract from what we are trying to do in that setting. This may be more appropriate for an event at Stewart.

Commissioner Greiner stated that she was unsure why the family would want to apologize to the Commission. Chairman Arnold commented that the apology seems sincere enough, but should be at a small event.

Sherry suggested keeping the event small at the Stewart Indian School with some healing element; inviting traditional tribal members to perform healing songs. Chairman Arnold also suggested keeping the audience small and to speak with them directly. Commissioner Moyle agreed that it should be a small meeting with traditional people present. This is nothing against the family, but this is a delicate issue. Commissioner Quasula agreed that using caution is good and she is good with moving forward in this direction.

Sherry will let Ms. Stephenson know the direction of the Commission.

B. Report on Stewart History and Preservation Project

Chris went over her written report with the Commissioners. Chris added that the NIC National Landmark Subcommittee will be meeting to develop a letter of intent to the National Park Service to have the Stewart Indian School designated as a National Historic Landmark. We also met with other state agencies on how to approach a Master Plan for the Stewart Indian School. The group felt that there wasn't enough time to complete a Master Plan prior to the legislative session, but possibly a site plan could be completed. Sherry discussed this with the Governor and he responded that he would like to come out and visit the school to get a clearer picture of our vision.

Chairman Arnold recommended working with others to come up with renderings and an outline of a plan prior to the Governor's visit. Sherry mentioned that the group discussed the possibility of working with an architect who may do some pro bono work or inquire if the State Public Works Division had someone on staff who could assist.

Commissioner Quasula had to leave the meeting after this discussion.

Commissioner Moyle offered that he is an artist and could assist with some watercolor renderings if needed. If the NIC would like him to help, the NIC should get photos to him as soon as possible.

Chairman Arnold agreed, but also said that this should not preclude us from contacting the other folks discussed earlier.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the report on the Stewart History Project, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

C. Report on 2014 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

Sherry asked the Commissioners to turn their attention to the Powwow budget. She also reported that the Powwow Committee utilized the Square this year at the Powwow and was very helpful. There were 30 vendors present, a bit less than last year, as there were several other competing events the same weekend. The t-shirts were very popular this year as was the shaded food area.

Chairman Arnold commented that the committee should consider bumping up the price of the food vendors, including the host vendors for the powwow. We should also consider bumping up the vendor prices, as they have only changed once in 10 years.

Sherry commented that the Powwow Committee should do a comparison on vendor prices. Commissioner Greiner commented that possibly a smaller increase would be more appropriate. Sherry will talk this over with the Powwow Committee.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the report on the 2014 Stewart Father's Day Powwow, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

D. Discussion and Planning for the 2014 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction (AIAA).

Sherry asked the Commissioners to note the AIAA save the date, ticket order form, program advertisement form and nomination forms. She encouraged all Commissioners to attend to not only support the event, but to support recognition of the tribal communities. In the past, Commissioners have also submitted their business cards for advertisement in the program.

Chairman Arnold suggested that the Commissioner contribution be bumped up to a \$150 contribution that would include a business card ad in the AIAA program.

Sherry will send an email to the Commissioners informing them of the \$150 contribution to the AIAA.

Sherry is still working on securing the talent for the banquet. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is hosting an event with a comedian from California. Sherry may attend and scout the comedian. Chairman Arnold recommended a mime from California. Sherry knew who he was talking about and has his contact information.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the AIAA report, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

A break was taken at this time.

XII. Report on Indian Territory Projects and Activities

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

Sherry mentioned that the Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) marketing grants are fairly simple to complete and the Territory has had visits and delivered applications directly to the tribes. And yet, there are very few tribes that actually submit applications. The Territory will continue to outreach to the tribes and urge them to apply for the funding.

Commissioner Moyle asked how the tourism assessment meeting with Duck Valley went. Sherry mentioned that she did meet with the Chairman and mentioned the grants and how it could benefit their events on the reservation. Sherry also said that she had looked at their website and most everything on their site was tourism and recreation related, so they are a prime example of a tribe that could benefit from the NCOT grant programs.

Most of what the Territory has accomplished is due to the grants awarded to them by the NCOT.

Chris reported that Mr. Burton has taken over 18,000 photos for the Territory. Larry commented that the Walker River Paiute Tribe in Schurz were very hospitable to him while he photographed the Pinenut Festival. He reported that he took an additional 2,500 photos at the Pinenut Festival.

Sherry mentioned that there is funding available through USDA Rural Development that can be used for tourism. Larry also mentioned that he was aware of this funding.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the report on Indian Territory activities, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

XIII. Discussion and Planning for Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature

Sherry explained that the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day this year will be held Tuesday, February 10, 2015. She went through the agenda from the last event held in 2013. She explained that she wants to take a different approach this year that would bring the tribes in prior to the session to discuss issues that will be taken up in the legislative session and those bills that would have an impact on the tribes. This would be more of a strategic plan on how to work and track this legislative session. It was felt that this approach would be more beneficial to the tribes. This would also allow the NIC to provide information on the Stewart initiative and the bills that the NIC is supporting.

Chairman Arnold agreed that this was a good approach and may assist in bringing people back each session as the discussions each year would be different and focus on the issues brought forward in that particular session. The Chairman also commented that the state legislature has implications for tribes and it is important to stress that there needs to be a tribal presence at the legislature, not just on Tribes' Day.

Sherry mentioned that the goal is to have the NIC legislation introduced on the same day as the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. Sherry thanked Scott for his input into development of the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. Scott suggested that training on the Nellis bill tracking system and how to view the committee meetings online would be beneficial to the tribes. Chairman Arnold mentioned that it is important for everyone to have the same message going into the session. Sherry added that she was going to put together some talking points on the NIC's initiatives so that tribal leaders would have these available when they are speaking with legislators. She also encouraged the commissioners to advocate to their legislators on behalf of the commission.

Commissioner Moyle mentioned that the contributions of tribes to the state's economy should also be discussed.

Commissioner Greiner motioned to approve the plans proposed by the Executive Director for the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day, seconded by Commissioner Moyle. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

Scott Carey thanked the Commission for their support of the NV 150 celebration. He specifically thanked Sherry and Chris for their outreach to the tribes and making sure that they were included in the year-long celebration.

XIV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Suggestions for future agenda items included: NIC vacancy, election of Vice-chairperson, update on the IEAC Strategic Plan, other written reports from 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 January 2015 to coincide with the Tribal Legislative Forum.

Chairman Arnold requested that the pages in the Commissioner packets be numbered.

XVI. Final Public Comment

There was no final public comment.

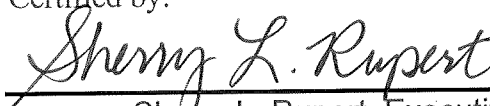
XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Greiner 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 12:31 pm.

CERTIFICATION

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, 0 abstentions, 1 absent, at a meeting duly held on September 4, 2015.

Certified by:



Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission