

Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV  
October 3, 2014

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Buck Sampson, Alumni, Stewart Indian School and Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Terri McBride, Anthropologist and Vice-Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Meg McDonald, Member, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Karyn de Dufour, State Historic Preservation Office; Bonnie Thompson, Historian; Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facility Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Adam Houle, Division of Buildings and Grounds

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- II. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Buck Sampson.
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. Sherry mentioned the passing of Bill Oliver, Vice-Chairman of the Nevada Indian Commission. Terri McBride commented and Buck sang a song in Mr. Oliver's honor.
- IV. Approval of August 1, 2014 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Terri suggested a new letter (G) be added to Item V, Report on the 2014 Stewart Father's Day Powwow. Terri thanked Sherry Rupert and Chris Gibbons for dedicating their weekend and sleep hours to the Stewart Powwow.
  - B. Terri McBride motioned to approve the August 2, 2014 meeting minutes and Meg McDonald seconded. Motion carried. There were two abstentions.
- V. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee
  - A. There are currently six members of the Stewart Advisory Committee: Buck Sampson, Meg McDonald, Rachel Malloy, Bonnie Thompson, Karyn de Dufour and Terri McBride. The Stewart Advisory Committee Bylaws state that there should also be one or more representatives from Nevada Tribes, one representative from Nevada Urban Indians, one representative from the Las Vegas Indian Center, one representative from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, one representative from the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, one representative from the Division of State Lands, one representative from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and one representative from Buildings and Grounds.
  - B. Terri suggested changing the Bylaws so that the Las Vegas Indian Center doesn't have to be involved. Karyn suggested somebody from the Carson City Visitors Bureau be contacted and Chris suggested contacting the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Carson City. Chris also stated that we need to have as many members on this committee as possible, especially since the Legislative Session will be upon us soon.
- VI. Report on Meetings Held in Regard to the Stewart Indian School Preservation Project
  - A. Development of a Master Plan for the Historic Stewart Indian School District

Sherry reported that she met with the Master Plan committee in August. While the Governor's office wanted the Master Plan completed prior to the beginning of the legislature, realistically there isn't enough time for the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) to complete a comprehensive Master Plan for the facility. The NIC had their first administrative hearing with the Budget Division at the end of September. The Major Budget Initiative (MBI) is contingent upon the State Public Works Board Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding. Should the NIC be funded and legislation be approved, the NIC would have the authority to proceed with the improvements for the Stewart Indian School. Another bill that has been submitted concerns the designation of the NIC as the coordinating facility for activities out at Stewart. The final decision to include this initiative in the budget is up to the Governor's Office. Sherry is confident the Governor will continue to include this in his request as he has often mentioned his support for moving forward with plans to improve the Stewart Indian School. Governor Sandoval has indicated that he would like to tour Stewart to learn more about what we envision for the facility.

- B. UNR Archaeological Field School Research Update and Planning Meeting:  
On August 4, 2014 the NIC attended a UNR Archeological Field School Research Planning Meeting by teleconference. The field school students are working on a report of all the items that had been taken out of Stewart and the participants have been asked to write an essay about what they learned throughout the project. The items collected were native to the time period of the school, between 1890 -1980, and were mostly toy cars, plates, dishes and marbles. The final report is due spring of 2015.

## VII. Fundraising Report - Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer I, Nevada Indian Commission

### A. 2015 Nevada Historic Preservation Fund Grant Submission

Chris stated that the Commission did not apply for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) from SHPO for this year, but is looking at applying in the 2015 grant cycle. Chris said the 2015 HPF Grant has a deadline of December 5, 2014. One of the ideas the Commission has would be to improve Building 4, behind the Commission office where the old trading post used to be. It could possibly be used as a curatorial space for museum collection or staff when completed. Chris mentioned the Commission also hopes to find a grant to assist schools in bringing more school children to Stewart from the local area, not just Las Vegas. Karyn feels that Stewart has a lot of opportunities; especially with the public education piece. Karyn suggested that she and Elyse from SHPO meet with Chris and Sherry to brainstorm ideas.

### B. 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant Award

The NIC received \$180,000 to cover seismic and structural projects for Building #1, but that does not cover the entire amount of the project. The Commission is looking at requesting an extension as they have been advised that the project is all or none and must be done all together. Meg asked who would be reviewing the request for more funds. Sherry stated that these funds were awarded through the Commission for Cultural Affairs, so any additional funds for this particular request would come from them. The funding that was discussed earlier (CIP funds) is a different request and must go through the budget process.

- VIII. Report on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project
- A. Historic Benches – Chris shared that the Commission is able to encourage placement of historic benches because they were recommended in the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan. A group that had toured the campus felt moved to donate a bench for a stop along the Stewart Indian School Trail. The bench was economical and similar to the benches recommended in the Landscape Preservation Plan. For clarification, this is a bench, and not a memorial. Chris thanked Ron, Adam and their team for getting the bench installed so quickly.
  - B. Front Entry – At one time there was an arch with columns at the front entry of the Stewart Indian School. Due to this Landscape Preservation Plan, Buildings and Grounds has the funding to complete the project. The parking lot in front of the Baptist Church is not State land, however, so the columns would encroach on some of the property lines. The Division of State Lands is continuing to review maps to make sure there are no discrepancies prior to building the new entryway.
  - C. Landscaping of Entry Corridor  
Chris spoke to Marty Phillips of Buildings and Grounds and was told that Genoa Tree Farm has been awarded the project and that maples, oaks, and crimson king trees – 85 trees total – will be planted over the entire campus. This too was part of the recommendations made in the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan.
- IX. Discussion and Planning for the 2014 Nevada Day Parade Entry and Sesquicentennial Honoring Reception for the 1964 Centennial Indian Princesses
- A. Sherry reported that Paiute Pipeline is donating a trailer, truck and driver for the parade entry. The float will be celebratory – shiny and bright and will incorporate both the princesses and Stewart alumni. Ron offered his yard for storage while the trailer is being decorated so it doesn't get vandalized. The group will be asking the Washoe Tribe to help with signage, as they have capabilities for making banners. Terri suggested the Commission put out a call for volunteers.
  - B. Meg thanked Sherry, Chris and Denise for all of their help on the coordination and planning of the reception. The group is asking the princesses to bring their original buckskin or cotton dresses so that their granddaughters or other female relatives can wear them in their honor at the reception.
  - C. Sherry stated that The Gold Dust West is being very accommodating. They are supporting the event by helping to create the centerpieces and also reserving a block of rooms for the princesses and their guests. The Commission will be requesting recognition certificates from the Governor's office, Lt. Governor, congressional representatives, as well as the Indian Commission.
- X. Update on Planning for the 2014 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction
- A. The American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction is the main fundraiser for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center. The event will take place at the

Governor's Mansion on Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 5:00pm – 8:00pm at \$55.00 per ticket. Sherry stated that the awards are in four different categories: *American Indian Community Leader of the Year*; *Contributor/Supporter of the Year*; *American Indian Youth Ambassador*; and *American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year*.

The Commission will utilize 14 of the 16 tables for seating and the other two will be used for the Silent Auction. Terri mentioned that she will be bringing something for the Silent Auction and Sherry said that if anybody else wants to donate an item, to please let us know.

XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Sherry stated the Legislative Session begins on February 2, 2015 and the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day is being planned for February 10, 2015. She said that the Stewart alumni and educators will be needed to testify to help make an impact at the Legislature. By December, elections will be over, so the Commission will have a better idea of which particular legislators will need to be made aware of the initiative. Legislative strategy needs to be discussed at the next meeting.
- B. The Committee needs more discussion on the Stewart Advisory Committee Bylaws.

XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be held Friday, December 5, 2014 at the Nevada Indian Commission office.

XIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Meg again thanked Sherry, Chris and Denise for their assistance in helping to plan the Princess reception.
- B. Chris asked the Committee to “Like” the Stewart Indian School Facebook page. The school page has 837 likes so far and is trying to get 1,000 people by the end of the year.
- C. Chris showed a photo of the revisions that will be made to the Commission's exhibit at the airport.
- D. Buck asked if there is a Stewart video and Sherry mentioned that the Commission is working on it and should be done by the next Stewart Advisory Committee meeting.
- E. Terri reported that Carson City government wants to make the old State Prison on Fifth Street into a cultural center. Karyn suggested that the Commission go before the Board of Supervisors and do a presentation for them so they can see what Stewart is about and how important it is to the community.
- F. Meg introduced Deirdre Jones-Flood, one of the 1964 Princesses.

XIV. Final Public Comment

- A. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.

XV. Adjournment

- A. Terri motioned to adjourn. Meg seconded. Motion carried.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.