

Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV  
April 3, 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; Terri McBride, Vice-Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee and Anthropologist; Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facilities Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Betty Badgett, Program Officer I, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Marty Phillips, Grounds Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Karyn deDufour, Deputy, State Historic Preservation Office; Skip Canfield, Program Manager, Division of State Lands; Larry Hale, Retired, Stewart Buildings and Grounds; Meg McDonald, Member, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Rupert Burt Powers, Member, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Joe Bryan, Elder, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Terri McBride called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- II. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Joe Bryan.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. Meg McDonald commented that everyone should wear a Stewart button.
  
- IV. Approval of February 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Karyn stated that two corrections need to be made. In Section V, part A, Alida Bowler's name was misspelled and in Section VII, part B, Steve Barron's name was misspelled. With these changes, Karyn motioned to approve the February 6, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Meg. Motion carried.
  
- V. Grant and Fundraising Report
  - A. Grant Award from the NV 150 Foundation  
Chris reported that on March 27, 2015, the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) received \$20,000 from the NV 150 Foundation. This award will fund the Oral History Project, providing the audio recordings of 15 interviews that will be transcribed, catalogued, and archived at the State of Nevada Indian Commission, State Library and Archives, and Special Collections of the University of Nevada, Reno. These interviews may also be used in publications, documentaries, or museum exhibitions, dramatization or other form of public presentation. Recordings, transcripts, catalogs, photographs and related documentary materials may also be posted on the Stewart Indian School website. The Commission will be working with the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, as this is an NIC project. Sherry added that 2014 was the year of the Sesquicentennial throughout the state and was appointed as one of the commissioners of the NV 150 Commission. The NV 150 Sesquicentennial Commission worked on various projects throughout the year, one of them being the Legacy Projects. These are projects that would be beneficial to Nevadans, and continue on after the celebration. After the Sesquicentennial celebration, the NV 150 then became the NV 150 Foundation and part of the funds that were left over were used as a grant award to capture more oral histories from Stewart's alumni. Some recordings were used for the Stewart Indian School Trail, but those weren't as in-depth as these will be. She said that she

believes these interviews will capture their full experience, as opposed to the short summaries the NIC currently has.

B. Historic Preservation Fund Grant Application Denial

On December 5, 2014, the NIC submitted an application for a Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) Grant proposal to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in the amount of \$15,000 to hire a professional interviewer/historian to compile oral histories of Stewart Indian School alumni and former employees. The NIC had submitted this grant before realizing that funding was available through the NV 150 Foundation. On March 18, 2015, the NIC received a denial letter from Rebecca Palmer of SHPO stating that the denial was due to budget cuts which resulted in limited grant funding available for projects. Ms. Palmer's letter suggested that the NIC submit an application for the National Park Service's Underrepresented Communities Grant Program. Terri asked for more information on this grant and Karyn responded that it is a grant for underrepresented communities in the National Register. This grant awards up to \$70,000 with no match needed and can go towards the National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation. She stated that the only entities that are eligible for this grant are State Historic Preservation Offices and federally-recognized tribes. Karyn said that SHPO would work with the NIC to find the right contractor and to complete the proper steps. She also commented that finding a Native graduate student that would be interested in Stewart would also be beneficial. Sherry said that she was disappointed the NIC was denied the HPF grant, but that she appreciates being informed of this new opportunity. Karyn stated that for the HPF grant, SHPO received 20 applications, but only 10 were approved and of those 10, none received the amount that was asked for. She went on to say that most of the HPF monies are geared for planning and historic structure reports and that as part of SHPO's requirements, they must create national registry nominations. Joe recommended Myron Dewey as a possible contact, as he has a background in history as well as his own multimedia business.

C. Update on 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant

Chris reminded the Committee that at the previous meeting, she had reported the Commission for Cultural Affairs (CCA) had decided to reduce the NIC's grant award. She stated that on February 20, 2015, the NIC received a revised award letter and funding agreement in the amount of \$137,000 for the rehabilitation of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center, Building #1, which was signed immediately and returned. This funding is for the design and development of construction documents, architecture and engineering. The fully executed funding agreement was received by the Commission on March 12, 2015 and on March 31, 2015, the NIC submitted its first quarterly progress report which stated that the funding agreement had been received. In addition, Chris reported that the Commission received and signed the State Public Works Division (SPWD) project budget and schedule sheet. This was necessary as the SPWB is the project manager for this project due to Stewart being on State property. Chris mentioned that the grant monies need to be spent by October 22, 2015. Terri asked if the NIC knows how much the construction documents are going to cost and Sherry said that she received an estimate from the architect firm and the architectural fees and design documents fall within the grant. The NIC will pay the SPWB fees separately and will most likely use funds currently in the gift account. Chris said that this should be the final step before actual construction begins, because the schematic design report was done in 2009, then construction documents is the next step and finally construction will commence once funding is secured.

VI. Report on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project

- A. Marty stated that Buildings and Grounds (B & G) received the permit to fix the pipeline at Clear Creek Canyon for the Stewart Complex and they have until April 30, 2015 to complete the project. Marty also said that he and Betty will be meeting with Calvin Dillon to discuss the stonework and completing production on the entryway. Karyn commented that Mr. Dillon is on the Comstock Stonework Commission Board and is perfect for this consultation. Sherry asked Marty to explain what the pipeline will do and its importance to Stewart. Marty explained that the pipeline irrigates everything out at Stewart and is part of the Landscape Preservation Plan. Sherry commented that in 2009, the Stewart Landscape Preservation Plan was put together by Wyss and Associates out of South Dakota and were great to work with because of their experience working with tribes. They had meetings with State stakeholders, public meetings with tribal representatives, and also were interviewed by the alumni and what they remembered most about the landscaping during their time there. Projects were discussed and prioritized, then came to be known as the Stewart Landscape Preservation Plan. The State is utilizing this plan and finding funds to implement the projects. Last fall, B & G planted 83 trees around the campus, installed irrigation systems and are moving forward with the pipeline and completing the entryway. Sherry commented that it is exciting to see funds being used for the preservation of the School. Chris mentioned the lighting and the green lamp posts that are placed around the campus in addition to the concrete walkways and concrete benches as being part of the plan. Ron said that he went to the Greenhouse Garden Center to find out when the other benches would be available for pick up and was informed that there was a mistake and to come back the following month.
- B. Betty said that although B & G can't move forward with the trees and greenery due to the irrigation problems, they can move forward with the projects involving concrete, the bronze statues, and the signage. Terri asked how the historic setting will be impacted by the water situation and Betty replied that the water currently at Stewart is sufficient for projects now, but that future projects will require more water. The SPWB is meeting regularly to discuss ideas on how to bring more water in. Karyn commented that in the 1930s and 1940s, the campus was very lush and asked how it was watered back then. Larry said that it was a closed-in system and that even though there were five wells at one time, only one could be used. Larry said the drinking water came from Clear Creek because of its purity and that winter seasons were much better back then. Now that there is a drought, it will be tougher to water everything.

VII. Status of Efforts to Secure Non-Profit Status

- A. Terry said the first thing to be done is to set up the board. She said that six board members would be necessary for the IRS requirements, but the State only needs three. Sherry stated that she will set up a subcommittee to select board members. She has spoken with Kathleen Quasula, Kostan Lathouris, and the bookkeeper for the NV 150 Foundation, and they are all interested in joining this effort. Joe asked about why the non-profit was needed and Sherry stated it was to help with fundraising. Most people do not like to give money to the State of Nevada; therefore a non-profit group like a "Friends of the Stewart Indian School" would be beneficial. Terri confirmed with Sherry that a current NIC board member could be an ex-officio member of the non-profit and that there isn't a conflict of interest. Sherry said that Stewart needs to have a Master Plan document developed. She has a vision to establish a cultural center, welcome center and museum. She wants to rehabilitate the dorms for people to stay in and have graduations and ceremonies in the auditorium again. Sherry has been involved in discussions about possibly housing a satellite location for a

tribal college out here at Stewart. It could also be a retreat for businesses because of the natural beauty and the overall peacefulness of the campus.

- VIII. Legislative Update for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Initiative
- A. Sherry stated that Senate Bill (SB) 63 designates the NIC as the coordinating agency for Stewart as well as the establishment of the Gift Account. While the SPWB manages the projects that happen out here, the NIC has an even greater interest because of the boarding school and how important it is to Native people. SB 63 has passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly. There was a change to the wording of SB 63 - the Commission would need the Board of Commissioners to decide how the gift account is to be used, and not at the discretion of the Executive Director, as originally worded.
  - B. Assembly Bill (AB) 15 originates out of the Division of State Lands and has to do with the selling of land at Clear Creek. The bill has passed the Assembly and is now on its way to the Senate. The NIC budget has a tentative closing date of April 16, 2015.
- IX. Update on Stewart Website Upgrade and Stewart Indian School Trail Brochures and Rack Cards
- A. Chris stated the project has been completed and was funded through a Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grant. The Commission had run completely out of the Stewart Indian School Trail Brochures, so the need to obtain more was urgent. Some of the changes to the brochure and rack card include: an ADA-accessible route to the map; there was technology information added stating the Stewart Indian School podcast on the [www.stewartindianschool.com](http://www.stewartindianschool.com) website can be downloaded to computers or smart devices; The Stewart Indian Cultural Center was changed to the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center; Shoshone was changed to Western Shoshone; logos were removed and all references to Native Americans were changed to American Indians. Chris also stated that she is working with Bruce from Charter Advertising on the redesign of the Stewart Indian School website.
- X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- A. Skip Canfield submitted his Approval of Representative Form to the Stewart Advisory Committee on behalf of the Division of State Lands.
  - B. An update on the National Historic Landmark designation will be given.
  - C. An update on the status of the non-profit subcommittee will be given.
  - D. Powwow updates will be provided.
  - E. The results of the bills the NIC had during this legislative session will be discussed.
  - F. Grant updates will be provided.
- XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting
- A. The next meeting will be held Friday, June 5, 2015 at the Nevada Indian Commission office.
- XII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Sherry and Meg mentioned the Stewart article that ran in the Reno Gazette Journal (RGJ) by the Associated Press. The RGJ had the article in the March 30, 2015 issue and the Nevada Appeal ran it on March 31, 2015. Sherry felt that it was a good article, but had a few errors. One of the captions misspelled her last name. She did say that the writer wants to come back to do an update on the project after the end of the legislative session, and she is hopeful that he does so that she can correct the incorrect information that was presented in this article.
  - B. Chris mentioned the 50-plus items that the Nevada State Museum had been storing and had recently given the Commission. These items were at the NIC's museum prior to its closing.

This is not the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) collection, however. Those will still be stored at the Nevada State Museum. Sherry asked why the BIA is in charge of those items and Karyn said that perhaps they never completed the proper disposal - that it may be their "Unprovienced Collection."

- D. The Stewart Father's Day Powwow will be held on the weekend of June 19-21, 2015. Sherry stated that raffle items are still needed and can be dropped off at any time. She also encouraged members of the Committee to volunteer at the Powwow in three hour increments.
- E. Sherry reported that the NIC has a new intern, Kate Krolicki. Kate is the eldest daughter of former Lt. Governor, Brian Krolicki, and is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Kate is currently updating tribal information to put in an online resource directory for the new NIC website. When Kate finishes this directory, she will assist with the NIC in whichever capacity is needed.

XIII. Final Public Comment

- A. Meg commented that the NIC staff is well organized for meetings and functions.

XIV. Adjournment

- A. Karyn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Meg. Motion carried.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56am.