

Nevada Indian Commission
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV
August 7, 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; Buck Sampson, Alumni, Stewart Indian School and Chairman, Stewart Advisory Committee; Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facilities Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Karyn deDufour, Deputy, State Historic Preservation Office; Skip Canfield, Program Manager, Division of State Lands; Larry Hale, Retired, State of Nevada Buildings and Grounds; Rachel Malloy, Collections Manager, Nevada State Museum

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:05am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

- II. Invocation
 - A. The invocation was given by Buck Sampson.

- III. Initial Public Comment
 - A. There were no initial public comments made at the meeting.

- IV. Approval of June 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Rachel made a motion to approve the June 5, 2015 minutes, seconded by Skip. Motion carried.

- V. Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms
 - A. Four Appointment of Representative forms were submitted for approval, three of them are renewals for Buck Sampson, Chairman of the Stewart Advisory Committee, Meg McDonald, Washoe Tribal Member, and Rachel Malloy, Collections Manager for the Nevada State Museum. The final form is for Marilyn "Max" Symonds, former Stewart Indian School Museum volunteer.
 - B. Karyn made a motion to approve these forms, seconded by Skip. Motion carried.

- VI. Grant and Fundraising Report
 - A. Update on the NV 150 Foundation Grant
Chris reminded the group that the NV 150 Foundation awarded the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) a \$20,000 grant to capture 15 oral histories of Stewart Indian School alumni. Chris said the NIC will be working on the Request for Proposal (RFP) and is hopeful that someone will be on board by the fall of 2015. Buck asked if the RFP is open to anybody and Chris said yes. The NIC is especially looking to interview the alumni that have not been interviewed previously. Buck said that he has a lot of family members that went to school at Stewart in the 1940s. While they have many stories to share, they would prefer not to be recorded.
 - B. Update on National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant
Karyn said that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) hasn't heard anything yet and most likely won't have an update until the end of the federal fiscal year, which is not until September 30, 2015. Karyn said she will give the Committee members an update at the next meeting in October 2015.

- C. Update on the 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant
Chris reported that on July 22, 2015, the NIC met with the State Public Works Board (SPWB) and H & K Architects to discuss the \$137,000 grant that was awarded to fund planning documents for Building #1. Sherry added that the meeting included plumbing, electrical, and information technology representatives and they discussed how best to complete the planning documents. Sherry mentioned that all charges must be invoiced by September 30, 2015 in order to fulfill the grant. Sherry also brought up the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) which will fund design and construction documents for Building #2 (Welcome and Information Center), as well as a Master Plan for the Stewart Complex, which the NIC will begin working on after the first of this year.

VII. Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project

- A. Chris reported for Betty Badgett and Marty Phillips by stating that \$175,000 is reserved for FY16 for landscape specific projects. Buildings and Grounds staff, Mike Johnson, Marty Phillips, and Ron Bodnar, along with Rebecca Palmer from SHPO and Sherry will be on the panel to decide which projects will be chosen this fiscal year. Concrete is always a need and they are also considering placement of a fountain in front of the Nevada Indian Commission Office (Building #3).
- B. Sherry said that Max Symonds went to the Carson City Assessor's Office and found some maps of the land that the Stewart campus is on. In viewing the maps, it appears that the boundary lines show ownership by the State of Nevada, the City of Carson City, in addition to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Skip requested copies of the maps to take to his office at State Lands and will follow up with Sherry at a later date. The front entrance to the school will most likely be completed in FY17, as \$200,000 will be reserved for landscape projects at Stewart.
- C. Karyn mentioned that during a meeting several months ago, there was a discussion about whether the track would be restored. The people that approached the NIC about this idea never followed up. The priority at present is the Cultural Center, Welcome and Information Center and the Master Plan.
- D. Sherry added that additional parking will be necessary when the Cultural Center and Welcome and Information Center open.

VIII. Status of Progress toward the Establishment of a Non-Profit for the Stewart Indian School

- A. Sherry stated that a meeting will be held on August 13, 2015 with Terri McBride, Kathleen Quasula, Kostan Lathouris, Michelle Fox, and Neena Laxalt. Michelle will be an asset as she was a member of the NV 150 Foundation and wants to assist with the necessary steps to complete the application for the Non-Profit group.

IX. 2015 Stewart Father's Day Powwow

- A. Sherry reported that the Powwow was held Father's Day weekend, June 19-21, 2015. She thanked the Buildings and Grounds crew for their hard work and assistance the three days leading up to the Powwow, as well as the days after. She commented that while the lights were better this year due to the additional wattage, the proper placement of the lights need to be figured out. Promotion of the event was especially successful with a TV interview, radio, and Facebook ads. All expenses were covered and a profit in the amount of \$4,000 was made.
- B. The NIC conducted a survey to assess what people like about the Powwow as well as where visitors come from. Almost one-third of the visitors came from out of state this year. Eighty-two percent of visitors responded that they came specifically for the Powwow. Thirty percent of the responders said they traveled over 100 miles to attend the Powwow and 45 percent of the responders said they had a family member attend the Stewart Indian

School.

- C. Rachel asked how the Great Basin Artists' exhibit did and Sherry responded that they did well and had a lot of interest.
- D. The Alumni Reception was held on Thursday evening in the Cultural Center Building and Bernice Wungnema Gorham, Brady Johnson, and Cecil Rambeau were award recipients. Sherry stated that the building was packed and therefore the reception will be held in the gym next year.

X. Stewart Indian School Website Upgrade

- A. Chris reported that the new website is almost complete. Bruce Rettig from Charter Advertising is working on building the Stewart Indian School website because the previous website had not been updated since 2008 and was out of date.
- B. Sherry mentioned the new NIC website is nic.nv.gov and is mostly complete, except for a few items that she would like to add. She also described the site as being warm and inviting and will draw people to the vision of the Commission and see what the NIC is about. Chris added that NIC staff has the ability to make corrections to the site instead of contacting StateWeb to make the corrections; it is nice to have the freedom to do that.
- C. Rachel asked if the Stewart website is under the TravelNevada umbrella and Sherry verified that the NIC website is and the Stewart website is linked under the NIC website.

XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Update on the Non-Profit meeting
- B. American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction
- C. Underrepresented Communities Grant
- D. Landscape Preservation Project
- E. Update on the Stewart Gym

XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

- A. The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 2, 2015 at the Commission office.

XIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

- A. Sherry invited the Committee to attend the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction on November 14, 2015 at the Governor's Mansion. Tickets for the banquet and silent auction can be purchased via the Stewart Indian School website or by mail.
- B. Sherry commented that the American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) will be held from September 14-18, 2015 in Ignacio, CO.
- C. In collaboration with Nevada's Indian Territory, TravelNevada has developed two itineraries for the public to visit tribal destinations, one for Southern Nevada and one for Northern Nevada. Karyn asked if the itineraries are Smartphone compatible and Sherry said not yet.
- D. Sherry mentioned a meeting about the Stewart bats that she attended in Ron's office. The bats are nocturnal and newly-built bat houses will be placed in different areas around the campus. Sherry said that the presentation would be a great addition to the Stewart Indian School Tours that are taken by schoolchildren because the information presented will be specifically about the bats that reside here.
- E. Karyn said the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) received a grant in the amount of \$49,000 from the American Battlefield Protection Program.
- F. Karyn also commented that a \$10 million grant is available to tribes affected by the freight railways. Grants are due August 31, 2015 and the first \$10,000 of it will be given to anybody that fills out a 2-page form. The second and third phases will be competitive and

no match is required for these funds. These monies will help with such issues as the preservation of cultural sites, language revitalization, and cultural sovereignty.

- G. Larry asked how many tribes were represented by students that went to Stewart. Sherry responded that students from approximately 200 tribes attended the Stewart Indian School.
- H. Chris shared Betty's update about a SPWB meeting with the NIC that will take place on August 25, 2015. Information about the outcome of this meeting will be presented at the next Stewart meeting in October.

XIV. Final Public Comment

- A. Buck reported that Native people can camp at Yosemite National Park without a fee. The only requirement necessary is that the member must provide identification showing tribal affiliation.

XV. Adjournment

- A. Karyn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rachel. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:29am.