

Nevada Indian Commission  
December 4, 2015  
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, Nevada

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Buck Sampson, Alumni, Stewart Indian School and Chairman, Stewart Advisory Committee; Rachel Kaleilehua Malloy, Anthropology Collections Manager, Nevada State Museum; Terri McBride, Ethnographer/Historical Researcher and Vice-Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Max Symonds, General Public; Jennifer Newmark, Administrator, Nevada Department of Wildlife; Scott Carey, Project Manager, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA); Larry Hale, General Public; Alex Tanchek, Project Coordinator, SISPA; Skip Canfield, Senior Planner, Nevada Division of State Lands; Neena Laxalt, Chairperson, SISPA; Ron Bodnar, Supervisor, Stewart Buildings and Grounds; Gracie Dick, General Public; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant Nevada Indian Commission; Michelle Fox, SISPA; Jim Bertolini, National & State Register Coordinator, State Historic Preservation; Kostan Lathouris, Vice-Chairperson, SISPA (teleconference).

- 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. Terri McBride wanted to let the other Committee members know the 2015 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction was a fantastic event.
  
- IV. For Possible Action: Approval of October 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - A. With no changes made, Skip Canfield motioned to approve the October 2, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Rachel Malloy. Motion carried.
  
- V. Presentation on the Bats at the Stewart Indian School – Jennifer Newmark, Administrator, Wildlife Diversity, Nevada Department of Wildlife
  - A. Sherry L. Rupert introduced Jennifer Newmark to the Committee and said she met Jennifer when she came out to the facility to talk about the bats living at Stewart and the installation of bat houses.
  - B. Jennifer gave a power point presentation to the Committee on the importance of bats to the ecosystem and specifically about the bats living at Stewart.
  - C. Jennifer shared that Nevada has 23 species of bats (there are 1,300 species of bats worldwide), they are found on every continent except Antarctica, most species in Nevada only have one pup per year, disease and destruction of habitat are the main reasons why the bat population is declining and Mexican Free-Tailed Bats are the species living seasonally at Stewart.
  - D. Currently, there are bat houses being constructed for installation at Stewart to keep the bats away from the buildings without harming them. Also, the Nevada Department of Wildlife will monitor the temperature and occupancy of the houses once installed.

VI. Grant and Fundraising Report

- A. Update on National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant – Chris Ann Gibbons reported that in June 2015 the Commission received a letter from Elaine Jackson-Retondo of the National Park Service approving the Commission to move forward with the Stewart Indian School NHL application. Shortly after the announcement, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) submitted a National Park Service Underrepresented Communities Grant application to fund the hiring of a consultant to work on the NHL application. In November 2015 SHPO informed the Commission that the Stewart Indian School NHL project was not awarded funding. The Commission is now looking into alternate funding sources for the project. Jim Bertolini added that awardees were announced in early November and did not include the NHL project. Sherry asked Jim if she could get a copy of the denial letter. Jim replied he has not received a notification letter but is guessing that most of the funded projects were properties working toward being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Once received, Jim said he would make sure that Sherry receives a copy of the denial letter. Sherry added that she has had conversations with Dr. Kirk from UNLV who is willing to assist with the project.
- B. Update on the 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs Grant – Chris said the Nevada Indian Commission recently completed a 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs (CCA) Grant in the amount of \$137,000 which funded a design development manual and complete construction documents for Building #1 (future Stewart Indian School Cultural Center). In addition, the Commission is submitting an application for the FY 16-17 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Grant (formerly the CCA Grant). In this grant cycle, the Commission will be asking for construction funding for Building #1.
- C. Update on the NV 150 Grant, Stewart Indian School Oral History Project – Chris stated the Nevada Indian Commission received funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the Trustees of the NV 150 Foundation. This funding will be used to interview Stewart Indian School Alumni and the audio recordings of these interviews will be transcribed, catalogued and archived at the Nevada Indian Commission, State Library and Archives and Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Commission will be working with the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs on the RFP process for this project. In addition, the Commission has met twice with the UNR Shared History Department on the project.

VII. Report on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project – Martin Phillips, Grounds Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds

- A. Chris reported the Nevada Indian Commission is collaborating with the Buildings and Grounds Division on the implementation of projects related to the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan. Buildings and Grounds is currently working on recreating the original stone fountain in front of Building #1, restoring the original entrance to the Stewart campus and replacing concrete throughout the facility. Also, Chris noted the Stewart Landscape Preservation Plan is on-line at [www.StewartIndianSchool.com](http://www.StewartIndianSchool.com).
- B. Ron Bodnar added that some stone has been located for recreating the original stone fountain and that Buildings and Grounds plans to begin construction of the fountain in May 2016.

- VIII. State of Progress Toward Establishment of a Non-Profit for the Stewart Indian School – Neena Laxalt, President, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA)
- A. Neena Laxalt began by stating that SISPA has a four member volunteer board and two staff members and that currently SISPA is working on outreach which includes putting together a Constant Contact e-mail database, designing a website and logo and they are putting together outreach packets. Also, Neena said she has approached the NV 150 Foundation for funding as well as Governor Sandoval to write a letter of introduction.
  - B. Sherry thanked SISPA for their time, effort and expertise and said there is a lot momentum and support for this very important project.
  - C. Scott Carey added that SISPA would like to work with Stewart Advisory Committee and is already working closely with the Nevada Indian Commission. Scott passed out a Constant Contact sign-up sheet and handed out postcards with contact and tax ID information for the group. Also, Scott said that SISPA is a private non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise funds to protect and preserve the unique history of the Stewart Indian School.
  - D. Terri McBride added the group did receive some donations at the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction. Also, that SISPA will be sending out membership information and will be looking for volunteers to assist with their efforts.
- IX. Status of Stewart Indian School Gym Scheduling – Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Office I, Nevada Indian Commission
- A. Chris said the Nevada Indian Commission is now the contact for all use of the Stewart Gym which includes issuing keys and scheduling.
  - B. Also, the Commission is in the process of revising the state and non-state user agreements and putting together a policy for use of the Gym. Chris did note that Buildings and Grounds will continue to handle insurance requirements and special use permits for non-state entities.
  - C. Sherry added the Gym is now available to tribal organizations/individuals and that tribal users will fall under the Nevada Indian Commission.
- X. Report on American Indian Achievement Award Banquet and Silent Auction, Governor’s Mansion, Saturday, November 14, 2014 – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission
- A. Sherry said the 2015 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction was a great success and that the proceeds from the Banquet (\$9,989) surpassed proceeds from preceding years. Sherry said the success was due in part to the high caliber of items in the Silent Auction which included pieces from the Great Basin Artisans. Also, 135 out of 140 seats were sold for this year’s event.
  - A. The following individuals were honored at this year’s event: American Indian Community Leader of the Year – Joseph Holley, American Indian Youth Services/Role Model of the Year – Saundra Mitrovich, American Indian Youth Ambassador of the Year – Alexandria Williams and Contributor and Supporter of the Year – John Ocegüera.
  - B. The Nevada Indian Commission also celebrated 50 years of service to the State of Nevada at the event.

- XI. For Possible Action: Agenda Items for Next Meeting
  - A. Stewart Indian School Master Plan
  - B. Review and Approval of December 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - C. SISPA Update
  - D. Grant and Fundraising Report
  - E. Letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs - Stewart Indian School Collection
  
- XII. For Possible Action: Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting – 2016 Meeting List
  - A. Sherry said the next Stewart Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2016 at the Nevada Indian Commission. Sherry also shared the list of 2016 meeting dates with the Committee and said the dates will also be posted on the Nevada Indian Commission website.
  
- XIII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
  - A. Buck Sampson mentioned that he visited the Clear Creek property with representatives from Buildings and Grounds, Stewart Indian School Alumni Ruby Carrillo and Stewart Advisory Committee member Meg McDonald. Sherry added that with the passing of Assembly Bill 15, once sold, proceeds from the land sale will be put into an account for the preservation of the Stewart Indian School. Buck Sampson also mentioned the Native Nevada publication has a lot of information on Stewart. The publication is no longer produced but it would be great to locate copies of it.
  - B. Sherry shared that she recently visited the site of the Carlisle Indian School in Pennsylvania. Sherry noted the facility is now used by the Army and that many of the school's buildings either no longer exist or are being used by the military. Also, security is very tight. Sherry passed arounds photographs of her visit and said there are plans for a museum near the site of the school and tours of the school are available.
  - C. Sherry wanted to let Committee members know the Tribal Ecological Knowledge Summit will be held March 1-3, 2016 in the Stewart Gym. The Summit will focus on incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the process that federal agencies will use in management of sagebrush ecosystems.
  - D. Sherry reported that a meeting on the creation of a Stewart Indian School Master Plan was held on December 1<sup>st</sup> at the State Public Works Division. Sherry said attendees discussed in depth the process for creating a Master Plan and all of the components that need to be considered for the project. Also, at the meeting, the creation of core message statement for the Stewart Indian School was discussed. Sherry read a draft of the core message to the Committee and asked for comments on the draft message.
  
- XIV. Final Public Comments
  - A. There were no final public comments made at the meeting.
  
- XV. Adjournment
  - A. Max Symonds motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Skip Canfield. Motion carried.

B. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43am.