

Nevada Indian Commission
February 3, 2017
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, Nevada

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Buck Sampson	Alumni	✓	
Terri McBride	Knowledge of School	✓	
Karyn deDufour	State Historic Preservation Office	✓	
Betty Badgett	State Buildings & Grounds		✓
Meg McDonald	Knowledge of School	✓	
Rachel Delovio	Nevada State Museum	✓	
Skip Canfield	State Lands	✓	
Max Symonds	Knowledge of School	✓	
Bonnie Thompson	Knowledge of School		✓

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Curator II, Nevada Indian Commission; Sean W. McConville, Program Officer I; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission

Others Present: Martin Phillips, State Buildings and Grounds; Ron Bodnar, Stewart Buildings and Grounds; Larry Hale, Retired Buildings and Grounds Supervisor; Laurie Thom, Chairwoman, Yerington Paiute Tribe; JoAnne Peden, Member of the Public; Sam Sortorio; Member of the Public

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Buck Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:08am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
 - B. Sherry introduced Sean McConville, the new Program Officer I for the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC).
 - C. JoAnne Peden introduced herself by saying that she is making a documentary about Stewart and will be filming the meeting today. She went on to introduce her cameraman, Sam.

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

- III. Initial Public Comment
 - A. Terri mentioned the Governor’s State of the State address and that the Stewart Indian School was included in his remarks. She stated that Governor Sandoval is proposing \$4.5 million for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Welcome Center, to include construction funds, exhibit design and installation. She stated he is also proposing \$1.2 million for roof repair and cleaning out the old gym. Sherry said that Governor Sandoval is really supportive of the NIC’s efforts to preserve the Stewart Indian School.

- IV. Approval of October 7, 2016 and December 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes
 - A. Terri made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for both the October 7, 2016 meeting and the December 2, 2016 meeting, with Max seconding the motion. The motion carried.

- V. Update on Recruitment for Stewart Indian School Cultural Center Staff and New Office
 - A. Sherry reported that she has submitted the documentation to the State of Nevada Human Resources Division requesting recruitment of a Museum Director. She said that Peter Barton, Administrator of the Division of Museums and History, will assist in the interview process and the NIC Chairman, Richard Arnold is interested in being on the panel as well. Sherry is hopeful that the recruitment will be open to all, and not just State employees. Sherry also stated that the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) will help get the word out.
 - B. Sherry stated that excess room tax funds made the renovation of Building #4 possible and should be completely ready for Chris to move in on Monday, February 6, 2017. As for technology, the NIC will be hooking up to the State fiber and will also be getting a new phone system. She said that fiber will be run from Building #89 to Building #3 to Building# 4. The NIC's current phone system and DSL is inefficient and needs replacement. Sherry commented that Buildings and Grounds (B&G) did such an amazing job and invited members of the Committee to view the refurbished cottage after the meeting.

- VI. Update on Stewart Indian School Master Plan
 - A. Sherry reported that the NIC received funds for the Master Plan from the last legislative session as a Capital Improvement Project (CIP). The NIC received an additional \$245,000 from room tax funds for expansion of that master plan and will go towards funding the Visitor Experience, Marketing Study, and Business plan. Museum Management Consultants (MMC) has been hired by H&K Architects to complete the assessment phase and will be having one on one interviews with the Governor, Legislators, the Administrator of the Public Works Division, NIC Commissioners, the Administrator of the State Historic Preservation Office, a representative from B&G a representative from the Carson City Chamber of Commerce, the Carson City Mayor, tribal members, alumni of the Stewart Indian School, current tenants on site at the Stewart campus, the Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, a representative from the Carson City Visitors Bureau, the Administrator of the Division of Museums and History, and the Superintendent of Public Schools. The NIC is in the process of scheduling these interviews for MMC to hold during the last week of February. Terri commented that she could help by contacting City officials if needed.
 - B. Meg asked which of the alumni will be interviewed and Sherry said that Chris is working on compiling a list. Meg suggested that Flora Green be interviewed, as she is the oldest Stewart Indian School alumni and will be turning 100 years old on February 16, 2017. Laurie said she would speak to her 93 year old mother to see if she would be interested in being interviewed.

- VII. Update on Grants for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy
- A. 2016 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP) Grant Award
Chris stated that there isn't much to report on, but did inform the Committee that the NIC received an FY 16/17 CCCHP grant in the amount of \$147,000 to fund a small portion of the construction on Building #1. Chris stated that these funds have not been used yet and if granted, may coincide with the CIP funding that the NIC is requesting this legislative session.
 - B. NV 150 Grant – Stewart Indian School Oral History Project
Chris reported that Terri has been hired through the NV 150 Foundation to compile 15 oral histories. The grant was in the amount of \$20,000 and Terri will be interviewing alumni and former employees of the Stewart Indian School. Chris stated that Terri has already interviewed former Stewart boxer, Rolf Brown and will be interviewing coach Robey Willis. Buck suggested that she contact Earl Montoya who was an assistant coach to Mr. Willis. He added that Bud Allen out of Stillwater was also a coach and could be contacted for interview. Chris mentioned Thomas Benjamin, a cross country coach that had donated Stewart items to the NIC and Laurie stated that he is her father. Laurie also commented that her grandmother, Betty Johnson, also went to the Stewart Indian School.
 - C. Terri said that she had plans to meet up with John Gonzalez, a former baseball, basketball, and football star that she met at the Stewart Indian School reunion in Arizona, but was unable to connect with him since the weather was so bad last month.
- VIII. Update on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project
- A. Marty reported that State Public Works is still working on the cement. Sherry asked Marty if there is enough manpower to assist with the many projects out at the campus. Marty said that currently his crew is short-staffed but there are five Community Trustees available to work.
 - B. Sherry reported that she has had conversations with Ian Hill, Fred Simon and Art Castanares who are the owners of the Western Nevada Futbol League. They are very interested in rehabilitating Stewart's track and field and want to put in artificial turf and solar lighting for soccer games. Many of their players come from other countries and are interested in possibly utilizing the dorms in the Quad. Sherry said the Western Nevada Futbol League owners may have the resources to rehabilitate those buildings as well. Skip asked Sherry about whether the Western Nevada Futbol League would be funding the project and Sherry said that one of the owners will. Skip said that a simple authorization process from State Lands would be necessary before the project can move forward. Sherry stated that the NIC has only had initial meetings with the owners and would need to invite stakeholders and state agency representatives to meetings before anything is decided. She added that while it is exciting for this opportunity to come to Stewart, it would also be very taxing on the current staff of the NIC. Larry asked Sherry if the Quad dorms would be updated. He said the Quad buildings are still in good shape, as they had been when he worked at Stewart 15 years ago; they just need to be cleaned

out. Sherry agreed and stated that she and Chris had checked out the buildings in the Quad recently and also found them to be in good shape.

- IX. Update on Contract for Stewart Indian School, National Historic Landmark Nomination Preparation
 - A. Sherry stated that excess room tax funds are being used to pay for writing of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) application. The NIC worked with the State Purchasing Office to send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) and one was received from the American West Center at the University of Utah. Annette Morfin of State Purchasing is working diligently on the contract and it will be submitted for approval at the next Board of Examiners (BOE) meeting in March or April.

- X. Update on Stewart Indian School Documentary
 - A. Chris said that JoAnne Peden is working on the Stewart Indian School Documentary which is funded through a grant that was received by the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) in the amount of \$25,000 from the Nevada 150 Foundation. JoAnne has hired an editor who is currently reviewing all of the Stewart-related events such as footage of the 2016 Nevada Day Parade when Sherry was a Grand Marshal, as well as the painting of the Stewart 'S' on the side of the hill above Edmonds. JoAnne may even include footage from today's Stewart Advisory Committee meeting. Chris shared that JoAnne has met with composers Joy and Scott Goodwin to develop music for the project. She also hired graphic designer Bruce Rettig, President of Charter Advertising/Design, Inc. who is working on the cover art for the documentary. Chris said that the NIC is hopeful the DVD will be completed in the next few months so that it can be premiered at the Stewart Indian School Alumni Reception on the evening of June 15, 2017. JoAnne said she is looking for more historic photographs and additional people to interview. Chris commented that Buck was interviewed by JoAnne recently too.
 - B. Laurie asked JoAnne if Native singers could be utilized for music. JoAnne stated that she would contact her about this possibility. JoAnne also shared that she wants to have children from a Head Start program singing the "ABCs" within the documentary.
 - C. Terri commented on the Apache Owl Dance as well as Navajo songs that were performed by Stewart Indian School students when they were asked to go out into the community. Chris mentioned the Apache Club and how the students incorporated their tribal beliefs, dances and songs during a time when it was allowable at Stewart. Laurie shared that she used to hide under the bleachers when the Apache students would perform because they looked scary to her. Buck added that different tribes had their own clubs and they would display how their traditional food was made, sing their traditional songs or dance. Buck recalled seeing members of the Papago, Pima, and Navajo clubs. He commented that they were similar, but different.

- XI. Update on Status of Request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to Transfer Ownership of Their Stewart Indian School Collection to the Nevada Indian Commission
 - A. Sherry said she had contacted Wayne Howle, the NIC's Attorney General about this issue because he had been involved when the Museum closed. She stated that his recollection

is that there were two collections of memorabilia, not one. The deed states that the memorabilia will be housed at Buildings #1 and #3 for the public to view. He said that it may be possible for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to give up possession of the collection and be given to the NIC. The second collection is whatever was on display when Sheila Abbe ran the museum. This collection includes items that weren't taken by the BIA as well as items that were donated by individuals. Wayne can help the NIC get the Stewart Indian School collection back. Sherry will give Wayne the deed that the NIC has and Wayne will provide the legal documentation in order for this process to move forward.

- B. Rachel shared that Stewart Advisory Committee member Bonnie Thompson wasn't able to include images of the collection in her dissertation on the Stewart Indian School because she wasn't given permission by the BIA.

XII. Discussion on Upcoming Legislative Session and Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature

- A. Sherry reported that the Nevada Tribal Legislative Forum was held on January 17, 2017 at the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. Senator Pete Goicoechea, Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, former Speaker of the Assembly, John Ocegüera as well as lobbyist and Chairwoman of SISPA, Neena Laxalt provided information on how the State Legislature works and also gave the tribal leaders present tips on how to be the best advocates for their communities.
- B. Sherry reported that the Legislative Session begins on February 6, 2017 and that the second Tuesday of every legislative session is Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. Sherry mentioned SB 83, the bill that the NIC had submitted for passage. This bill proposes to expand the authority of the NIC, to become the clearinghouse of all things Indian Affairs for the State of Nevada. Sherry encouraged the Committee to look at SB 83 and support the bill at upcoming hearings. Sherry commented that she has sent out invitations to legislators to attend the tour at Stewart on February 14, 2017 and has heard back from several of them already. She reported that Senator Tick Segerblom contacted her and stated that he is supporting the Indigenous People's Day bill and requested that she help gather tribal representatives and request their presence on the floor during that session. Sherry said this bill would change Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day in Nevada.
- C. Sherry reported to the group that the NIC is also tracking BDR 704 that Assemblyman Al Kramer is sponsoring about the maintenance of Clear Creek Road. Sherry reminded the Committee about AB 15 that was passed in 2015. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) sponsored AB 15 in which they would sell two parcels of land at Clear Creek and the proceeds would go into a special account at the DCNR to be used for the preservation of the Stewart Indian School. Assemblyman Kramer's bill proposes that the funds from the sale of the Clear Creek properties would be split in half - 50 percent for repairs and maintenance of the road and 50 percent to the preservation of the Stewart Indian School. Sherry said the NIC is trying to find out who owns the road. Terri asked if State Lands will be keeping track of the bill and Skip said that State Lands has not even viewed the bill's language yet. Terri asked if people can go to hearings and object, but Sherry said that the NIC needs to review the bill first and then will inform Committee members on what stance the NIC will take.

- XIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - A. Follow up on projects
 - B. Legislature Activities

- XIV. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting
 - A. The next Stewart Advisory Committee meeting will be held at 9:00am on Friday, April 14, 2017.

- XV. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
 - A. Karyn announced that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has received \$40,000 in Positive Train Control monies. SHPO hired Terri McBride to provide ethnographic work for the Stewart Indian School, which in turn will assist MMC with the Visitor's Experience portion of the Master Plan. Terri shared that she is working on setting up focus groups and "informal sharing of memories" with Stewart Indian School alumni.
 - B. Sherry commented that the Goshute Tribal Council and the Battle Mountain Band will be in attendance at Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature. Sherry invited Committee members to attend the event on February 14, 2017 in Room 3100 of the State Legislature building. Sherry informed the Committee that the NIC's Notable Nevadans poster display will be located at the Senate Atrium on the second floor.

- XVI. Final Public Comment
 - A. Larry asked if a structural study will be done for the old gym and Sherry said she is unsure but would find out.
 - B. Laurie reported that the Yerington Paiute Tribe was not consulted by Nevada State Parks about their plans to build a new state park near Walker River. Laurie said she became aware of it when Governor Sandoval mentioned it during his State of the State address. She commented that State Parks intends to build cabins and post trail signs where burials and other tribal ceremonies have taken place. Laurie went on to say that she will be making a statement to the officials at State Parks and Skip told her that Eric Johnson would be the best person to contact. Max commented that she had met Mr. Johnson at a Lyon County Commissioners meeting the day before and found out that State Parks is planning to open the new park on July 1, 2017. Laurie thanked the Committee for welcoming her at the meeting and Sherry thanked Laurie for attending.
 - C. Meg shared that the Great Basin Native Artists will be having a reception tonight from 5:00-7:00pm at the Carson City Visitors Bureau.

- XVII. Adjournment
 - A. Rachel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Terri seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43am.