

**NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION
STEWART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, August 4, 2017- 9:00am

Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

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

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director; and Chris Gibbons, Curator II

Others Present: Kristen Brown, Architectural Historian, State Historic Preservation Office; Ron Bodnar, State Buildings and Grounds Supervisor II; Larry Hale, Retired State Buildings and Grounds Supervisor; and Amy Alvarez, State Buildings and Grounds

I. Welcome and Introductions

Executive Director Rupert called the meeting to order at 9:08am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

II. Invocation

Chairman Sampson provided the invocation.

III. Initial Public Comment

Vice-Chairman McBride stated that she is stepping down as the Vice-Chair of the Stewart Advisory Committee. Ms. McBride commented that after serving on the Committee for five years, she feels it is time for someone else to “step up” and fill this role. The Committee thanked Ms. McBride for her years of service.

IV. Approval of June 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Symonds made a motion to approve the June 2, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. McDonald. The motion carried.

V. Introduction of Stewart Indian School Master Plan – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

Executive Director Rupert reported that the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) has been working with Museum Management Consultants as well as Gallagher and Associates on the interpretive framework for the Master Plan. Executive Director Rupert stated that the Commission has received Ms. McBride’s report, “The Stewart Story Project: Interpreting the Stewart Indian School through Student Voices” and commented that it was very

well done. This information will be shared with the Master Plan team along with H&K Architects when the NIC meets with them at the end of this month.

VI. Update on Grants for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy

A. 2016 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP) Grant Award

The Executive Director reported that the CCCHP Grant will commence when the project begins and that it will pay for a portion of the seismic retrofit of Building #1.

B. NV 150 Grant – Stewart Indian School Oral History Project

The Executive Director reported that Ms. McBride has completed the project and presented 15 Oral Histories to the Commission. Copies will be delivered to Nevada State Archives, the Nevada Historical Society, and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Special Collections.

Executive Director Rupert also mentioned that Committee members may read the oral histories at any time. Please contact the Curator or Museum Director to set up an appointment to view them.

C. Capital Improvement Project (CIP) – The Stewart Indian School Gym

The Executive Director stated that the feasibility study and new roof project for the “Old Gym” kicked off on August 3, 2017. She commented that the Stewart Indian School’s Facebook page posted on this topic had already reached 708 people which garnered 143 reactions, 16 comments, 30 shares, and 592 photo views.

VII. Update on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project – Betty Badgett, Program Officer, State Public Works Division, Buildings and Grounds Section

The Buildings and Grounds Program Officer stated that the landscaping at the facility is being watched closely due to the campus losing some of its trees. To prevent future loss, a drip line will be installed to assist with the overall preservation of the landscaping. In addition, Buildings and Grounds (B&G) has enough funds to make the outsides of some of the buildings look fresher. Stewart Facility Supervisor Bodnar stated that Buildings 7-31 will be updated with new coats of paint and any repairs to the porches or other structures will be made.

It was suggested to the Executive Director that a meeting with B&G’s Administrator, Gus Nuñez and the Division’s Deputy Administrator, Tom Federici be scheduled to discuss the status of the entryway along with the possibility of the NIC obtaining an additional building to be used as Stewart Indian School collections storage.

The B&G Program Officer introduced her Administrative Assistant, Amy Alvarez, who is learning the Program Officer’s budget duties for when she retires in two years. The Program Officer explained that she is also training her Administrative Assistant on the history of the Stewart Indian School so she understands why funding is so important.

The Executive Director asked the B&G Program Officer about the status of the new policy restricting paranormal groups “ghost hunting” on the campus. The Program Officer responded that the policy has been drafted and is now being reviewed by their office’s Attorney General.

VIII. Update on National Historic Landmark Nomination Preparation – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

Executive Director Rupert stated that there hasn't been an update from the America West Center. Curator Gibbons stated that she had forwarded their requested documents to them, but didn't receive a response. The Executive Director stated she would request a report from the America West Center and will update the Committee at the next meeting.

IX. Discussion on the Stewart Indian School Documentary – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

Executive Director Rupert reported that several changes still need to be made to the documentary before its completion. In order to make these changes, approximately 25-30 hours of editing is needed and will require additional funding in the amount of \$2,000.

The NIC anticipates being able to show the documentary immediately following the next meeting in September.

X. Update and Discussion on Stewart Indian School Cultural Center – Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Nevada Indian Commission

The Museum Director went through a list of activities that she and the Curator have been working on. The categories listed are Leadership and Organization Structure, Stewart Indian School Living Legacy, Financial Stability, Collections Stewardship, Education and Interpretation, Outreach, Facility and Risk Management, and Communication and Marketing.

The Museum Director explained the desire to work directly with Stewart alumni and suggests that they be part of a subcommittee of the Stewart Advisory Committee. Museum Director Rahder is hopeful that the alumni will be excited now that the Cultural Center will be opening next year.

Committee Member Delovio made a motion to approve the formation of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center Advisory Subcommittee, seconded by Committee Member Symonds. The motion carried.

The Commission is tentatively planning a Stewart Indian School Cultural Center Blessing Ceremony on Thursday, October 26, 2017 from 1:00-5:00pm. The Museum Director created a draft program of the day which may include the Presentation of Colors, a procession of spiritual leaders and Stewart alumni, the blessing by Washoe, Southern and Northern Paiute, Western Shoshone, Navajo, and Hopi spiritual leaders, remarks and introductions from Governor Sandoval, State of Nevada Congressional Representatives, the NIC, and Stewart Alumni representatives. In addition, the Stewart Song could be performed and the premiere of the Stewart Indian School Documentary may be shown just prior to scheduled tours of the campus for attendees.

XI. Planning for 2017 Nevada Day Parade Entry for the Stewart Indian School – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

The Executive Director led a discussion on the planning of this year's Nevada Day Parade. The Administrative Assistant has already requested the use of Paiute Pipeline's truck, trailer and driver, but the request has yet to be confirmed. The Committee discussed having a banner placed on one side of the trailer that states, "Stewart Indian School: Home of the Braves." Committee Member Symonds suggested using the cover art of the documentary as it showcases the beautiful and distinctive rock that is plentiful at Stewart. Along with the art, high school boys could portray former students as they stand on the front of the float. Another Committee member commented that the future of Stewart must also be shown somehow because many people do not know what all is going on out at the campus and it is up to us to inform them.

Executive Director Rupert reported that the NIC has been invited by the Nevada State Museum (NSM) to have a shared event after the parade since the NSM will be open and the *Under One Sky* exhibit will be on display. Details still need to be arranged and this topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.

XII. Report on the 2017 Stewart Father's Day Powwow – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

The Executive Director reported that the 2017 Stewart Father's Day Powwow was successful, though it felt like there were less people in attendance. It is believed that this is due to competing events like the Reno Rodeo that may have taken people away from this event as well as the extreme hot weather. The Powwow did sell out on the 42 vendor spaces available at the event.

Although there were some challenges this year, such as finding replacements for the Head Man, Head Woman, the Arena Director as well as an audio contractor, honorariums for the Head Staff and competition dancing were increased by 30 percent. There had not been an increase in the competition since the NIC had been coordinating the Powwow. Some participants are often disappointed in the amount of their honorariums, but they forget that this Powwow is a fundraiser for the preservation of the Stewart Indian School.

The Stewart Father's Day Powwow has had its debriefing meeting and has decided to reduce the Indian taco vendors down to a total of five because some vendors complained that there were too many taco booths and not enough customers.

The Washoe Tribe's Stewart Color Fun Run was held on Saturday, June 17, 2017 at 9:00am. It was so successful, it will be part of the Powwow weekend again next year. The only downside to the event was the weather and how hot it was. The Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee will recommend that the event begin earlier.

XIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Suggestions for future agenda items included: June 4, 2017 meeting minutes; Appointment of Representative Form Approvals; election of Vice-Chairman; update on the Stewart Indian School Oral History Project; update on the Stewart Indian School Documentary; update on planning for the 2017 Nevada Day Parade.

Any other requests for agenda items should be forwarded to the Executive Director.

XIV. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

The next Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting has been scheduled for October 6, 2017 at 9:00am. There was a discussion amongst the group that there should also be a meeting in September so that more planning can be done in preparation of the Nevada Day Parade. The Committee decided that an additional meeting be scheduled for Friday, September 1, 2017 at 9:00am.

XV. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

Ms. McBride suggested that the Committee write a letter to the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA), to discuss ways in which their fundraising efforts can increase. Executive Director Rupert reported that she and SISPA will be meeting at the end of the month and that she will invite them to the next Stewart meeting in September.

Ms. McDonald mentioned that the oldest Stewart Indian School alumnus, Ms. Flora Greene, is being honored by the Folklife Program of the Nevada Arts Council as one of their recipients of the 2018 Nevada Heritage Award. Patty Hicks is the other recipient this year. "Nevada Heritage Awards recognize and celebrate individuals who embody the highest level of artistic achievement and highest level of service. The awards recognize lifelong commitments to mastering, teaching and sharing traditional arts."

Ms. deDufour reported that today will be her last meeting as the SHPO representative. She commented that she has seen growth in the Committee in the past three years and while she is sad about leaving, she is excited at the same time.

XVI. Final Public Comment

No final public comment was made.

XVII. Adjournment

Ms. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. deDufour. The meeting adjourned at 11:22am.