

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 20, 2017- 10:00am
Yerington Paiute Tribal Council Chambers, Yerington, Nevada

Board Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Richard Arnold, Chairman	Native American Representative	✓	
Marla Williams	Native American Representative	✓	
Kelly Krolicki	General Public Representative	✓	
Richard Snyder	General Public Representative	✓	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director; and Sari Nichols, Program Officer I

Others Present: Laurie Thom, Chairwoman, Yerington Paiute Tribe; Max Hershenow, H&K Architects; Beverly Harry, PLAN ACTION, Native Community Organizer; Wayne Howle, Senior Deputy Attorney General; Julie Hernandez, Tribal Secretary, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada; Amber Torres, Chairwoman, Walker River Paiute Tribe

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

The meeting convened at 10:04am. The Executive Director took roll, determining a quorum of four Commissioners present.

II. Invocation

Commissioner Snyder provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Arnold welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He asked all those present to introduce themselves.

IV. Initial Public Comment

Chairwoman Thom mentioned that she was interviewed regarding the racism that is targeting minority students at Yerington High School. She is interested in meeting with the State of Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to assist her in discussions with Yerington High School. Chairwoman Thom stated she is reaching out to the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) as well as Nevada delegation to support the Tribe as they fight the racism and discrimination the students face.

Chairman Arnold stated that the NIC will assist and act as an advocate. He said to continue dialogue with Executive Director Rupert in addition to contacting Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional at the NDE.

V. Approval of August 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Krolicki made a motion to approve the August 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

VI. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

Commissioner Williams thanked the NIC for hosting the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Governor's Mansion. She commented that the awardees were well-deserving and that the entertainment provided by the Yup'ik Dance Group was extra special.

VII. Approval of Executive Director Report as Presented by Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission

Executive Director Rupert presented her report to the Board and gave the following highlights:

Commissioner Hansen's appointment to the NIC Board has expired and a new Native American Representative is being sought. Ms. Rupert believes that the Governor's Office will decide on someone very soon.

The NIC has a new Program Officer – Ms. Sari Nichols started her employment on August 21, 2017.

As was reported at the previous meeting, the Executive Director and Museum Director conducted tribal visits in June 2017 completing them in August 2017. During each visit, the Executive Director and Museum Director provided information about the NIC and Stewart Indian School, respectively. Tribal leaders shared their communities' current activities and discussed their expectations of the Commission.

In follow-up to Senate Bill 244, the Executive Director reported that correspondence was sent out to all Tribes and requested they send their nominations of potential candidates to be appointed to the Board of Museums and History and also the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation. Executive Director Rupert also stated that she has reached out to the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), but has yet to receive a response.

The Bi-State Tribal Natural Resources Committee (BTNRC) met on August 10, 2017, in Bridgeport, CA. At the meeting, it was decided to move forward with planning a second Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit in October 2018.

Chairman Arnold suggested that the NIC continue to contact the ITCN and to possibly add them to future NIC Board Meeting agendas in order to provide updates to the Board.

Commissioner Snyder made a motion to approve the Executive Director report, seconded by Commissioner Krolicki. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

VIII. Presentation and Discussion on the Nevada Tribal Cannabis Coalition – Laurie Thom, Chairwoman, Yerington Paiute Tribe

Chairwoman Thom mentioned that she is unable to comment on the activities of the Coalition as it has not met recently. Instead, she reported that the Yerington Paiute Tribe (YPT) has entered into a marijuana compact with the City of Yerington. They have been discussing pill payment, payment in lieu of taxes, and ways the Tribe can assist in law enforcement as well as sharing enforcement capabilities for dispensaries and cultivation. The YPT dispensary has not opened yet because of its close proximity to the Tribe's Head Start program, so they are researching parcels of land nearby to build on. Chairwoman Thom stated that the Tribe issues medicinal marijuana cards for any Native American within the State of Nevada. Commissioner Williams asked for an explanation of the Tribe's cannabis regulatory structure. The Chairwoman said that a consulting firm will be handling the administration regulation and criminal enforcement will be done by the Lyon County Sheriff's Department. Ms. Rupert commented that the State of California used the Nevada Tribal Cannabis Coalition as their model to set up their own coalition and the Chairwoman said that the state of Oregon has also inquired about the Tribe's model.

Commissioner Snyder asked which tribes are involved with the Nevada Tribal Cannabis Coalition and Chairwoman Thom listed the YPT, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, and the Ely Shoshone Tribe as members of the Coalition.

IX. Presentation on Stewart Indian School Master Plan – Max Hershenow, H&K Architects

Mr. Hershenow introduced himself and said that his firm, H&K Architects, is working with the State of Nevada Public Works Division to create the Stewart Indian School Master Plan. He gave an informational presentation and distributed handouts to the group. Mr. Hershenow began by saying that the main document is what his firm is using to work off of to “tell the story of Stewart.” The organizational diagram shows an updated version of the facility which illustrates possible uses of the campus such as: an area for tribal learning and resources, a conference center for business retreats, lodging in the dorms, meals served in the Dining Hall, and plays held in the Auditorium. The State of Nevada currently funds the Stewart Facility through leases from state agencies and other non-profits. H&K Architects wants Stewart to be sustainable, both environmentally and financially. The document also shows an area to be used for recreation, as athletics were also a big part of the school’s history. He envisions redevelopment of the football, soccer and baseball fields, trails, and possibly allowing for camping along the edge of Clear Creek. In addition, there is a preservation plan within the Master Plan. There are 72 buildings at the facility and 35 of them are vacant. It is important to understand the conditions of the buildings and H&K may pursue “mothballing” which means that buildings are taken care of even if they aren’t going to be worked on for several years. Mr. Hershenow stated that having an Interpretive Plan is necessary in order to tell the full story of Stewart, good and bad. The fabric of the Master Plan is the story of Stewart. Stewart Indian School is unlike any other in the country, and without the story, the buildings are just buildings. H&K Architects list the following five goals in order to complete the Master Plan:

- 1) Rehabilitate and repurpose the campus as an integrated historical and cultural complex;
- 2) Create a dynamic and participatory visitor experience that reflects the legacy and culture of Stewart Indian School and the American Indian in the context of a multi-use development;
- 3) Establish an independent legal structure and a governing body to develop and operate the Stewart Indian School as a separate public entity;
- 4) Develop a financial program to support the preservation, enhancement, and operation of Stewart Indian School as a unique destination;
- 5) Encourage public use, understanding, and enjoyment of the Stewart Indian School as a community asset.

Ms. Beverly Harry commented that she believes the history of boarding schools is that they were very harsh. She went on to say that there were not enough areas for Native people to heal and feels that a memorial or a healing garden could be planted for families of the deceased to gain medicine from. In response, Mr. Hershenow said that there is a plan to develop a memorial near the infirmary, which is the oldest building on campus.

Mr. Hershenow concluded his presentation by saying that the draft Master Plan will be presented in January 2018 with expected completion in March 2018. The Executive Director publicly thanked the H&K Architects team for being so great to work with.

X. Stewart Indian School Living Legacy

A. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms to the Stewart Advisory Committee

The Executive Director presented six Appointment of Representative Forms for approval on the Stewart Advisory Committee. The approval requests are for Meg McDonald, Washoe Tribal Member, Max Symonds, former Stewart Indian School Museum attendant, committee chairman Buck Sampson, Kristen Brown, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Skip Canfield, Nevada Division of State Lands, and Rachel Delovio, Nevada State Museum. Commissioner Williams asked what is done to recruit members. Ms. Rupert stated that she actively recruits when out into the community asking attendees to consider

joining the Stewart Advisory Committee as well as filling any vacant seats held by state government officials. Currently, 15-20 people attend the meetings each time. It was noted that Mr. Sampson's form needed to be signed by the Vice-Chair of the committee instead of himself.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the six Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee and that Mr. Sampson's forms needed to be signed by the Vice-Chairman of that committee. Commissioner Krolicki seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Approval of Report on Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Related Projects

The Program Officer presented her report to the Board and gave the following highlights:

The Division of Buildings and Grounds (B&G) staff have been working on projects that have been identified in the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan and are painting some of the buildings to make them look inviting even as they are boarded-up. B&G has also been landscaping the grounds near the front of the complex, and installing new watering systems around the facility.

Commissioner Snyder asked about the NIC's progress in having old items removed from some of the buildings and Ms. Nichols said that while the progress has been slow, she is grateful for B&G's assistance with this ongoing project.

Ms. Nichols reported on the NIC's float entry during the Nevada Day Parade and stated that several notable alumni were represented by photos on the bed of the trailer, along with themselves or one of their descendants riding on the float. In addition, NIC staff walked along the parade route and handed out cards informing the public that the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center will be opening in 2019. Ms. Nichols was astonished that 500 cards were handed out before the float was halfway down the parade route.

Commissioner Krolicki reported that she has viewed the Stewart Indian School documentary and feels that it is PBS quality and should go out as soon as possible. Chairman Arnold suggested that Ms. Rupert contact C-SPAN from when they interviewed him about Stewart a few years back; perhaps they would be interested in showing the documentary or can assist in locating another entity to show it. Chairman Arnold is pleased to hear updates from SISPA and wants the group to be added to future Board Meeting agendas.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve Ms. Nichols's report on Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Related Projects and Commissioner Snyder seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

C. Approval of Report on Stewart Indian School Cultural Center

The Museum Director presented her report to the Board and gave the following highlights:

Museum Director Rahder reported that she and Chris Ann Gibbons, Curator, have been working on the development of the Cultural Center's Plan of Operations, which includes policies and procedures that are in alignment with the standards of the American Alliance of Museums. In addition, Ms. Rahder and Ms. Gibbons have created a Cultural Center Advisory Committee which includes alumni from the Stewart Indian School. It is important to Ms. Rahder to include as many voices as possible.

Ms. Rahder commented that she and Ms. Gibbons have been documenting items from the Stewart Indian School collections that are currently being housed at the Nevada State Museum. She mentioned that they have found some items that are uncatalogued and not part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs collection. The NIC feels these items should be returned to the Stewart Indian School and will reach out to Peter Barton, Administrator of the Division of Museums and History, for assistance.

Ms. Rahder stated she had visited the Indian boarding school exhibit at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona earlier in the year and was frustrated to learn that the Stewart Indian School is not mentioned. She and Ms. Gibbons will be sending information to the museum in hopes that the Heard will include the Stewart Indian School in their new exhibit. Chairman Arnold asked Ms. Rahder to research whether the Stewart Indian School is included in the boarding school exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve Ms. Rahder's report on the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Commissioner Krolicki seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

- D. Possible Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Recommendation to State Buildings and Grounds on Paranormal Policy for the Stewart Indian School – Sherry L. Rupert

Executive Director Rupert read a letter that was written on behalf of the NIC's Stewart Advisory Committee to Tom Federici, Deputy Administrator, Buildings and Grounds, indicating the Commission's position on a Paranormal Policy for the Stewart Indian School. If any edits are necessary, the NIC will defer to Chairman Arnold.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the Stewart Advisory Committee Recommendation to State Buildings and Grounds' letter and Commissioner Krolicki seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

XI. Presentation on Great Basin Native Voice and Tribal Voter Outreach – Beverly Harry, PLAN ACTION

Ms. Harry introduced herself and stated that PLAN is an acronym for Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada. As the Native American Community Organizer for PLAN, she empowers youth, elders, and tribal members of the Great Basin to develop their voice for future elections. Ms. Harry stated that certain groups are deprived of their privilege to vote by not having the proper accommodations, and that some polling locations are too far for tribal people to drive to. Because of these issues, three members from two Nevada Tribes successfully sued the Nevada Secretary of State's office last year, leading to the passage of Senate Bill 492 during the 2017 legislative session. Ms. Harry went on to say that she has developed a form for tribes to request a change in polling locations to better suit their needs.

Commissioner Krolicki recommended that the Commission put relevant legislative information that could affect the tribal community on the NIC's website. Commissioner Williams recommended that Tribal Chairmen contact Barbara Cegavske's office directly, asking for consultation. Chairman Arnold suggested that Ms. Harry contact Executive Director Rupert for assistance in this matter.

XII. Report on Indian Territory Projects and Activities – Sari Nichols, Secretary, Indian Territory

Ms. Nichols reported that she is now the Secretary of the Indian Territory and that Ms. Chris Ann Gibbons is the Treasurer. She went on to report that Executive Director Rupert and Museum Director Rahder attended the American Indian Tourism Conference in Green Bay, WI, September 11-14, 2017.

Ms. Nichols reported on the 10th Annual Tribal Tourism Conference which will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Stateline, NV on April 23-25, 2018. The Conference will focus on indigenous cultures and how tourism can revitalize cultural languages and traditions for future generations. Chairwoman Thom stated there are a lot of Native American artists and that it is important to promote and protect Native Art. Chairwoman Thom wondered aloud how an artist registry could be developed and maintained. This topic would be great to offer and have a roundtable discussion during the Tribal Tourism Conference. Commissioner Snyder commented that the Navajo tribe has its own Navajo Arts and Crafts certification and that they could be contacted to learn more.

Ms. Nichols also mentioned that the NIC has a permanent exhibit at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and it is being moved due to construction. The new area where the exhibit will be moved will expand the exhibit. Therefore, the Commission has sent out an RFP to interested parties about the design of a new cultural display. Chairman Arnold suggested that in addition to showcasing the nature and lifestyles of the Northern and Southern Paiute, Western Shoshone, and Washoe Tribes, but to also have some information highlighting the Stewart Indian School in the exhibit as well.

Chairman Arnold asked about Indian Territory grants and whether they are approved. Ms. Rupert stated that the Territory submitted grants for website maintenance, marketing for the Stewart Father's Day Powwow, and funding for travel and marketing costs for the Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference. While these grants were approved by the Territory Advisory Committee, they will not have final approval until the next Nevada Commission on Tourism Board meeting which will be held the second week in December.

XIII. Indian Education

A. Approval of Appointment of Representative Form for the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

Ms. Rupert reported that Ms. Chelsey Solemsaas, Education Director from the Washoe County School District submitted a form for approval on the Committee.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve one Appointment of Representative Form for Ms. Solemsaas, seconded by Commissioner Snyder. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

B. Approval of Written Report on IEAC Activities Submitted by Sandra Mitrovich, Chairperson, IEAC

Sandra Mitrovich submitted a written report to the Board.

Commissioner Krolicki asked about the status of the IEAC project regarding the out-of-state tuition policy for tribal students that live out of state, but want to attend Nevada universities and colleges. Ms. Rupert stated that the Committee has been researching this issue and shared that she also had discussions with tribal leadership when she visited them earlier this year. All of the tribal leaders she met with agreed that the students should pay in-state tuition. Ms. Rupert said she is planning a phone conference with Antoinette Cavanaugh who is in the process of writing legislation on this topic for the State of Utah. Commissioner Krolicki asked if the IEAC is going for legislation or if it should just be a change in policy and Ms. Rupert responded that until the group knows how many students are being affected, it is currently unknown.

Commissioner Snyder made a motion to approve Ms. Mitrovich's written report and Commissioner Williams seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

C. Written Report on Current Indian Education Program Activities, Submitted by Fredina Drye-Romero, Education Programs Professional, Indian Education, Nevada Department of Education

Ms. Drye-Romero was not in attendance at this meeting, but submitted her written report to the Board. Ms. Rupert read a portion of a document that included information on the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Social Studies, approved by the Nevada Department of Education in September. These new standards will be implemented in the 2018-2019 school year and it, along with past lesson plans written by educators, will be used to revise the current curriculum guide, *History and Contemporary Lifestyles of the Tribes of Nevada*.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve Ms. Drye-Romero's report and Commissioner Krolicki seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

XIV. Report on 2017 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction

Ms. Rupert stated that the NIC sold 150 tickets out of 160. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe had purchased a table of 10, but were unable to attend at the last minute, so they donated their seats for the NIC to fill. Ms. Rupert thanked Chairwoman Thom for her support of the event and purchasing a table of 10 for the Yerington Paiute Tribe. Ms. Rupert believes that the event garnered a profit of just over \$10,000.

Chairman Arnold commented that the silent auction portion of the event needs improvement. He suggested the Commission research the possibility of doing a live auction instead of a silent auction or even using an online app so that people don't have to get up and down multiple times during the evening. He also suggested inviting elders or children to help fill seats in the event of a cancellation or unsold seats. Commissioner Williams commented that she feels the event has outgrown the venue and that the seating was too tight. Commissioner Krolicki suggested that the Commissioners sit on other parts of the room so that guests can meet them and talk informally. Ms. Rupert mentioned that although Southwest Gas and NV Energy were new sponsors this year, a few regular sponsors supported the fundraiser at a lesser level. It is important to find out the reasons behind their decisions and to prevent that from happening again.

XV. Discussion and Possible Approval of Process for Selection of Future American Indian Achievement Award Recipients

Executive Director Rupert explained that there was a Special Board Meeting in November to select the award recipients and to discuss the selection process. The process was not developed at that time and is being brought forward to this meeting. There was a comment that the decision should lie with the Commissioners during a public meeting and another that there should be a committee of two Board Members and three staff members be the deciding factor. Commissioner Krolicki asked how the nominees are normally solicited and was informed that e-mails requesting nominations are sent out to NIC listserves in addition to making announcements during other meetings Ms. Rupert attends, as well as posting to the Stewart Indian School and Facebook page. Chairwoman Thom commented that it would be helpful for people to be able to submit nominations online via the website.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to have two Board Members and three NIC staff members serve on a committee to make recommendations on award recipients to the NIC Board for their approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Snyder. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (0 absent).

XVI. Information and Discussion on new Nevada Wildlife Regulations Passed in SB 511

Ms. Rupert pointed out information on SB 511 as well as a letter that was sent from the Nevada Department of Wildlife to the Tribes regarding their new hunting and fishing license structure. Ms. Rupert stated that Tribes requested more information on SB 511 during the NIC's tribal visits in August. Commissioner Williams asked for Ms. Rupert to verify the new licensing process with Tony Wasley, Administrator of Dept. of Wildlife, as the information is complex. Ms. Rupert will update the Board on this issue at the next meeting.

XVII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Suggestions for future agenda items included: Approval of the November 7, 2017 and November 20, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes; provide an update on SB 244 and whether any submissions of tribal representatives have been received; receive an update from SISPA and an update/clarification on the new hunting and fishing licensing process for tribal members (SB 511).

XVIII. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

The next meeting will occur in February 2018 with the location to be determined.

Commissioner Williams left the meeting at 2:04pm.

XIX. Final Public Comment

Chairwoman Thom commented that the next Nevada Tribal Cannabis Coalition meeting will occur in the New Year.

XX. Adjournment

Commissioner Krolicki motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Snyder. The motion carried with a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent). The meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

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