

Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
5500 Snyder Avenue, Building #3, Carson City, NV  
February 6, 2015

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant, Nevada Indian Commission; Buck Sampson, Stewart Indian School Alumni and Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Terri McBride, Anthropologist and Vice-Chairperson, Stewart Advisory Committee; Meg McDonald, Member, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Aletha Tom, Stewart Indian School Alumni; Rachel Malloy, Curator, Nevada State Museum; Karyn de Dufour, Historic Preservation Specialist III, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facility Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds ; Betty Badgett, Program Officer I, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Bonnie Thompson, Historian; Martin Phillips, Grounds Supervisor, Division of Buildings and Grounds; Joe Sam, Stewart Indian School Alumni

- 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 Aletha Tom.
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. Terri McBride said that she liked that Stewart was mentioned by Governor Sandoval at the State of the State address. Meg commented that while Stewart was mentioned by the Governor, it is ultimately up to the Legislature to approve the budget request and bills that the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) has submitted.
- IV. Approval of December 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Karyn de Dufour stated that a correction needed to be made in section VI, part A of the National Historic Landmark Working Group Report. David Lauter's last name was misspelled and must be corrected to read David Lauter each time it is mentioned in the paragraph. With these changes, Terri motioned to approve the December 5, 2014 meeting minutes, seconded by Rachel. There were two abstentions. Motion carried.
- V. National Historic Landmark Working Group Report and Review of Letter of Intent to the National Historic Landmark Program Coordinator, National Park Service
  - A. Chris Gibbons passed a copy of the Letter of Intent out to the group. She said that after the letter has been reviewed and approved by the Committee, it will then be mailed to the National Park Service. Chris stated that the National Landmark Working Group met on January 13, 2015. The working group is comprised of Karyn de Dufour and Jim Bertolini from SHPO, Bonnie Thompson, Terri McBride, Sherry Rupert and Chris Gibbons. Chris said the group worked well together and feels the final letter is spectacular. The letter to Elaine Jackson-Retondo begins by describing the history of the Stewart Indian School and the federal mandate to educate American Indian children in the boarding school system. The letter then describes why Stewart should be a historic landmark along with its unique structures and stonework. Later, the letter discusses political reform and the "New Deal" in the 1930s. Further, the letter goes on to mention Alida Bowler, the first female superintendent in Indian service and her contributions to the Stewart Indian School and Indian education in general.
  - B. Terri reminded the group that this letter is the first step in the National Landmark process. She mentioned that the goal of this letter was to introduce members of the National Park Service to the

school and explain to them why this Committee believes Stewart is a part of the Nation's history, not just Nevada's history. If the National Park Service agrees with the Committee, they will send a letter notifying the group to begin the application process.

- C. Chris shared that the workgroup decided to send in six photographs with the letter. The photographs showcase the architecture as well as the students that went to Stewart. She said that Jim suggested the group submit an aerial shot to show the size of the campus.
- D. Chris stated that the Committee received letters of support from Governor Sandoval, the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, the Confederated Tribes of Goshute, the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Yerington Paiute Tribe. Sherry stated upon approval of the Committee, she will sign the letter and send the packet to the National Park Service the following week.
- E. Karyn suggested that the salutation be changed to Ms. Jackson-Retondo, as opposed to starting the letter with "Dear Elaine." Chris agreed that it was a good suggestion and will revise the letter.
- F. Rachel made a motion to approve the letter after it has been revised. Bonnie seconded and the motion carried. Sherry said that she would report back to the Committee upon receiving a reply from Ms. Jackson-Retondo.

## VI. Grant and Fundraising Report

### A. Proposal Submission to the NV 150 Foundation

Sherry reported that the NV 150 Commission has transitioned to the NV 150 Foundation and it is closing out the expenses and projects that they had committed to funding. The NIC submitted a proposal to fund an oral historian to collect 15 oral histories of Stewart alumni. These oral histories can be expensive due to the time the historian takes to complete each interview, as well as transcribing, printing and binding each one. Sherry stated that she hasn't received a response yet, but assumes the delay is due to the foundation closing everything out. Chris reminded the Committee that the NIC applied for a Historic Preservation Fund Grant for \$15,000 for an oral historian to compile the stories from alumni and former employees. These interviews will be archived at the Commission, the State Library and Archives as well as Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Buck asked about the oral history project that was being done by Joanne Peden. Sherry responded that Ms. Peden did many of the interviews, but didn't have any funding to continue with the project. Ms. Peden gave Sherry permission to use her information; however, the Commission would need to hire somebody to edit all of the footage she had gathered. Terri suggested that the Commission coordinate with Ms. Peden to make sure duplications do not occur. Aletha commented that Moapa alumni do not get interviewed and is hopeful that this new project will change that. Terri mentioned that she recently met Rudy Clark, a former Stewart athlete. He told Terri that when he was at Stewart, he used to work for a woman that owned a small farm. She appreciated his help so much that she ended up paying for his first year of college. Terri commented that it would be nice to re-connect with him and get more of his story. Buck asked Terri when Rudy may have attended school here and Terri estimated it to be the early 1950s.

### B. Disposition of the 2014 Sesquicentennial Indian Princess Reception Proceeds

Sherry reminded the Committee that the NIC co-hosted the Princess Reception in October, 2014. Meg was instrumental in getting the tribes to donate to the reception so that the Princesses could attend at no cost. Meg collected so many donations that there was leftover money. Sherry received a letter from Meg McDonald and Joanne Nevers, Chairwoman and Vice-chairwoman of the 2014 Sesquicentennial Indian Princess Reception Committee. The letter stated that the \$800 balance from this event will be donated to the Stewart Indian School Museum and Cultural Center. Aletha commented that she remembered a conversation between her and Meg in April of 2014 about planning the reception. She encouraged Meg to follow through with it and was happy the reception was so successful. Meg responded that she couldn't have done it without the help of Sherry, Chris and Denise.

C. 2014 Commission for Cultural Affairs (CCA) Grant

Chris stated that this is a grant that Stewart has received previously and that the deadline to submit the application was on November 1, 2013. On March 6, 2014, the CCA Board met and granted \$1,000,000 in funding which included \$180,000 to the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center. The original intent of this funding was to go towards construction on the building. On April 2, 2014, the 2015 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) application was due to the State Public Works Board (SWPB). The NIC requested \$2,198,960 to rehabilitate Buildings #1 and #2, bringing them up to code for occupancy. On May 28, 2014, CCA Chair Robert Ostrovsky sent a letter to the Nevada Department of Administration in support of the NIC's 2015 CIP request. In the letter, Mr. Ostrovsky stated that the \$180,000 award would not be sufficient to rehabilitate the Stewart Indian Cultural Center. On June 5, 2014, the NIC received a letter from SHPO confirming that the NIC was awarded the \$180,000 grant. On October 1, 2014, the SWPB sent their 2015 CIP recommendations to Governor Sandoval and the NIC was not included on this list. On December 4, 2014, Sherry requested a meeting with SHPO to discuss the status of the 2014 CCA Grant award. On December 16, 2014, the NIC met with SHPO to discuss the status of the grant award. At this meeting, the NIC presented a project change request to develop a detailed set of construction documents for Building#1. SHPO conferred with the CCA Board Chairman on the project change request and it was decided that a CCA Board Meeting would need to be held to discuss the request. On December 30, 2015, the NIC was requested to submit a revised scope of work and budget to SHPO for their January 5, 2015 CCA Board Meeting. On January 6, 2015, the CCA Board met to discuss the project change request. The request was approved, but only up to the \$137,000 level that was included on the preliminary estimate from H&K Architects. Also at this meeting, the CCA Board voted to make the remaining \$43,000 available for redistribution to another project. On January 7, 2015, SHPO sent a letter to all 2014 CCA Grant recipients stating that \$43,000 in funds were available for redistribution. A proposed scope of work and budgets were requested by January 26, 2015. On January 13, 2015, Susan Kastens from SHPO requested a revised scope of work and budget for the \$137,000 grant award to be received by February 27, 2015. On January 26, 2015, the NIC submitted a proposal for use of the remainder of the \$43,000 in reverted grant funds. On February 3, 2015, the NIC had another meeting with the CCA Board to decide how to redistribute the \$43,000, which was part of the \$180,000 award. The proposal was to complete an electrical upgrade to Building #1, which would use up all \$43,000. The NIC wasn't the only agency to submit for the reverted funds, and the CCA decided to redistribute the \$43,000 to four other projects. Karyn asked whether the NIC still has the \$137,000 and was told that it must be used for planning only. Sherry also stated that there was a meeting with the SPWB and the Governor's Office is supporting the CIP request of \$297,000 for planning for Stewart. This is in addition to the \$122,000 in Budget Account 2601, the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy. The \$122,000 is for two new positions and operating for these positions. The \$297,000 was added to the CIP list and the Commission it was unaware of this addition until recently. Sherry spoke with the Governor and his Chief of Staff and informed them of the CCA award and the CIP. The \$137,000 CCA grant will only cover Building 1 and not Building 2, but the CIP funds cover both buildings. After completing the planning for Building 2, planning for Building 90 or a Master Plan for Stewart could begin. Terri asked whether any of this funding can go toward construction and Sherry said no, that it was to be used for planning only. Sherry went on to say that when she met with the Governor, he mentioned that there may be parties interesting in donating to Stewart. The NIC will be developing fundraising packets that would include the Stewart video and one-pager, and any other information that could help them decide to donate. Aletha asked what all was involved in the construction portion of Building #1. Sherry stated that it would be replacing the electrical, the HVAC system, the lighting, and repositioning the stairs in the original direction. Terri suggested making it appropriate to curate artifacts and to get it back to its historical aspects. Rachel suggested that the Commission could possibly name the exhibits after each donor. Karyn asked how long plans last and whether there is a cut-off date for plans to be used. Betty replied that it depends on the integrity of the building; for example, how much time has gone by and what is the

condition of the building? If there is no reason for any changes to be made, the plans have a long time to be used. Sherry commented that with CIP funds, plans have to be used within four years. Karyn asked who approves the CIP and when does the Committee find out if it has been approved. Sherry stated that it is up to the Legislature to decide and the approval should be given by May 2015. Sherry said that she will keep the Committee updated with any progress and this topic will be revisited again as the Committee continues to meet. Terri commented that she believes the focus should stay on Building #1, especially since alumni are getting older and they should have a place to go.

- VII. Report on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project
- A. Chris stated that since the last Committee meeting, she has had correspondence with Betty regarding funds that need to be spent by June 30, 2015. They have discussed landscaping around the auditorium, but due to safety, the sidewalks need to be repaired first.
  - B. Betty reported that she has brought in Steve Barron, ADA for the State. She informed the Committee that while he will be retiring this year, he has confirmed that the work will be done. She stated that there is a problem with the curbing and sidewalks around Building #11 that need to be repaired. Marty stated the roof on Building #11 will finally be repaired after a year and a half. Chris asked whether the funding to be used will be the landscape funding and Betty assured her that it is. The landscaping and sidewalks will also be worked on near Building #89 and #90. Chris said that she is happy as long as the money stays at Stewart and is not going out to a separate project. Betty also mentioned that after July 1, 2015, during the next biennium, \$300,000 has been dedicated to the rest of the sidewalks and the steam tunnel. Sherry asked Betty if there will be any work done on the sidewalks around the ADA trail route around Building #3 and Betty confirmed that it indeed will be repaired.
  - C. Meg asked whether the sidewalk going into the church would be included in the repairs and Betty said no because of the property lines.
  - D. Betty also said that the City of Carson City is getting involved in regard to the entryway. They say that the property line hits Snyder, which belongs to the City. Karyn asked if the City would grant an easement if it does turn out to belong to the City and Betty replied yes.
  - E. Terri asked Betty if B&G is coordinating with SHPO to get everything done and Betty replied that not much would get done without SHPO being involved.
  - F. Sherry mentioned that the Commission had a meeting with Ian Hill and Naomi Nevers to discuss the possibility of restoring the track and field here at Stewart. They see a lot of opportunity in making a good place for the community's children to go to. Sherry said that it is a good discussion to have because of the benefits to the community as well as the Tribe. Betty stated that restoring the track and field is also listed in the Landscape Preservation Plan and that it would be a great project to work on. Sherry said she wants to have Naomi and Ian come to a Committee meeting to discuss the project.
- VIII. Discussion on Research Accomplished to Secure Non-Profit Status
- A. Terri said that she went to the Secretary of State's office to research non-profit status. She said there is no group available in Nevada that provides free assistance to those seeking direction on how to set up a non-profit. Bonnie asked why the Committee wants to set up a non-profit and Terri said it was to solicit donations for Stewart, as a "Friends of Stewart" or "Preserve Stewart, Inc."
  - B. According to State law, there is a list that must be followed. First, an initial Board of Directors must be established, to include a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors creates the bylaws, but they can be changed at any time. Terri stated that incorporation is necessary as well so that the organization is legal. Karyn commented that people with accounting experience and/or attorneys are good people to have in the Treasurer role because they would have to deal with audits and file taxes. The group must file Form 1023 with the IRS and this is the application for Exempt status. The Registered Agent must then be decided and is the person that is responsible for all

correspondence and to speak on behalf of the organization. The IRS states that it can take 3-6 months for approval and depending on how much the group may raise, it can cost between \$400 and \$850 for the filing fee.

- C. Terri stated that the group will need to work closely with the NIC because of all of the fundraising the Commission has done and that the group will need to keep the NIC updated with the projected financial statements for three years out. Sherry said that the NIC will not be on the Board of Directors, but may be an ex-officio member, or a liaison between the two boards.
- D. The group can apply with the State of Nevada while in pending status. It will need to file the Application for Nonprofit Articles of Incorporation, the Registered Agent Acceptance Form, a Charitable Registration Statement form and the organization will need to secure a Nevada business license. Terri said these filing fees will total to about \$125. Sherry mentioned that as the President of the nonprofit American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), she knows much about the process.
- E. Terri said that the group would need to set up a bank account, a mailing address, a P.O. Box and hire someone with accounting experience. Terri said she knows of someone that would be a great asset, although she is not a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Terri feels that this entity could take over a lot of the fundraising that the NIC does and perhaps assist with the grant writing as well.
- F. Terri asked if there was anyone in the group that was interested in being on the nonprofit and recommended Meg as she is very good at collecting donations. Terri said that she wants to help, but may not take the lead in this venture. Sherry commented that she wants to speak to one of the NIC's Commissioners to ask her assistance on setting up the non-profit organization, as she is an attorney. She also wants to ask law student, Kostan Lathouris to see if he would be interested in being a part of the non-profit organization. He is a young Native man, with a tie to the school and has a lot of energy to get things done. Aletha spoke on his behalf as well and said that she believes he would be an asset to this new entity.
- G. Meg suggested asking John Ocegüera or Lucy Flores to see if they would be interesting in joining. Bonnie commented that she could also ask if her boss would be interested because he is an attorney for the Town of Truckee and is also registered in Nevada.
- H. Sherry stated that like the National Historic Landmark workgroup, this will be the Non-profit workgroup and will have meetings separate from the Committee meetings.
- I. Bonnie made a motion to establish the non-profit working group and Karyn seconded. Motion carried.

#### IX. Discussion on Legislative Strategy for Stewart Indian School Initiatives

- A. Sherry stated that Nevada Tribe's Day is coming up on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 10:30am in room 3100 of the Nevada State Legislative Building. She said that it will be similar to other events like in past legislative sessions. She reminded the Committee that it was the youth at the last legislative session that was the catalyst for the passing of SB 23, institutionalizing Nevada Tribes Legislative Day and they will be invited this day as well.
- B. Sherry commented that the information and input that was received at the Tribal Legislative Forum, held on January 15, 2015 at Stewart was successful and informative. Tribal leaders discussed legislative issues that were being proposed this legislative session and their concerns in regard to these bills. Sherry said that these issues, as well as taxes, healthcare and education will also be addressed at the Nevada Tribes Day event. Also up for discussion will be the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Initiative. Sherry stated that she has invited many of the legislators to attend the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day, both from the senate and assembly, and she has received confirmations back from them as well. Terri asked if appointments should be made with the assemblymen prior to the event to ask for their support of Stewart and Sherry said yes. Meg asked if the Committee is going as a group or if separate appointments should be made. Sherry said that the legislators could be in different districts and that Meg's assemblyman may not be the same as Terri's. Sherry

recommended that Meg take somebody with her if she doesn't feel comfortable going by herself.

- C. Sherry presented the Committee with a document describing the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Major Budget Initiative (MBI). It contains information about the history of Stewart, why Stewart should be preserved, who will benefit from its preservation and how the Governor's budget will accommodate this. This document can be given to the legislators that the members of the Committee meet with, but Sherry stressed that what they are really interested in are the members' stories. What does Stewart mean to you?
  - D. Sherry mentioned the Budget Hearing on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 and urged the Committee to attend the hearing to testify to the legislators as to why Stewart should be preserved. Terri mentioned that she, Meg and Buck all have Senator Kieckhefer as their representative and that they should meet with him prior to the hearing. Sherry stated that due to the size of the legislative joint committee, Senator Kieckhefer is not expected to be that day, but that Terri, Meg and Buck can still meet with him on behalf of Stewart. She also said that even if a member is unable to attend the hearing, that it would be beneficial to submit their testimony in writing. The NIC learned at the Legislative Forum that letters and emails from the public count. Sherry told the Committee that she will send out information on which senator will be attending the hearing so that on Tuesday, the Committee member will know who to make contact with. Sherry asked the Committee members to wear red or a red scarf if they plan to attend the hearing and that the NIC will be handing out 'Preserve Stewart' pins to the people that aren't wearing red. The legislators will then see all of the people coming out to support Stewart. Sherry reminded the group to make sure their testimony isn't duplicative and to personalize their stories.
  - E. Sherry reported that SB 63 is the bill that creates the NIC Gift Fund account and designates the Commission as a coordinating agency for the Stewart Indian School. The agencies out at Stewart think the passing of this bill will give the NIC control over everything, but that is not what it's about. It just means that the NIC would be coordinating the efforts at Stewart, to make sure all the entities work together and are not duplicating efforts. The budget hearing for this bill has not been scheduled yet, but Sherry says the Committee members can write letters and send emails in support of this bill as well.
  - F. Sherry stated that AB 15 did not originate from the NIC or the Governor's Office, but originated out of State Lands. This bill creates the account for the protection and rehabilitation of the Stewart Indian School. It is the creation of an account for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the historic state buildings and grounds of the Stewart Indian School. State will be selling the land up at Clear Creek and the proceeds of that sale will go into an account for the Stewart Indian School. Terri wanted confirmation that if this bill is approved, it means that when the land is sold, the money cannot go anywhere else, but only to Stewart. Sherry said that was correct. The first budget hearing for AB 15 will be on February 11<sup>th</sup>, but since the NIC cannot attend, the Commission will be writing a letter in support of this bill and Sherry asked the Committee to do the same.
- X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- A. Legislative Update
  - B. Non-profit status
  - C. Landscape Preservation Plan
- XI. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting
- A. The next meeting will be held Friday, April 3, 2015 at the Nevada Indian Commission office.
- XII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Terri mentioned that she will set up a meeting with Senator Kieckhefer and bring Meg with her.

- B. Sherry said that she had spoken with former NIC Commissioner, Ted Quasula who said that P.K. O'Neill was a good friend of his and that P.K. is supportive of all things Native.
- C. Terri commented that Tribal Council members should be invited to attend the hearings and Meg suggested that the Committee contact Deirdre Jones-Flood, the new Vice-chairwoman for the Washoe Tribe.
- D. Meg asked for clarification on the activities at the Nevada Tribes Day event. Sherry responded that it is a luncheon reception to celebrate the culture, to have legislators meet with constituents, and have attendees sit in on sessions.
- E. Sherry asked Betty to follow up on the question from the previous meeting about the use of the gym here at Stewart. Betty said that she had a meeting with the Administrator of SPWD, Gus Nunez and after reviewing all of the documents, he was appalled at the restrictions that had been set in place for so long. The paperwork is outdated and must be revised. Betty informed the Committee that Sherry does not have to be present at the events, but can be listed as the designee and Gus said that any Native person can use the gym and will just need to reserve time on the schedule. The gym will be open Sunday through Saturday and the on-call B&G employee will open the facility for the game, exhibition, or whatever is planned.  
Sherry asked Betty if the Commission has permission to inform the tribes of this new decision and Betty said it does. Betty also commented that prior to revising the forms, B&G will ask the NIC for their input. Meg asked Betty if reserving the gym has to go through a certain tribal entity and Betty said to make Sherry aware of the function that is being set up and to call B&G to get on the schedule. Sherry brought up the Stewart Father's Day Powwow and asked Betty about the \$2 million insurance policy and Special Use permit and whether that still applies. Betty responded that she will ask Gus and get back to the Committee at the next meeting. Chris commented that perhaps the gym can be utilized at the Powwow this year and Sherry mentioned that the alumni has always wanted to have a reunion, but there has never been a place to have it. Now that the gym is available, those activities may now be able to happen.

XIII. Final Public Comment

- A. There was no public comment.

XIV. Adjournment

- A. Terri made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Meg. Motion carried.
- B. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.