

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

October 13, 2017- 9:00am

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

Committee Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Buck Sampson, Chairman	Stewart Indian School Alumni	x	
Betty Badgett	State Buildings and Grounds Division	x	
Kristen Brown	State Historic Preservation Office	x	
Skip Canfield	NV Division of State Lands	x	
Rachel Delovio	Nevada State Museum	x	
Meg McDonald	Knowledge of School	x	
Max Symonds	Knowledge of School		x
Bonnie Thompson-Hardin	Knowledge of School		x

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: Ron Bodnar, Facility Supervisor II, Buildings and Grounds; Marty Phillips, Grounds Supervisor II, Buildings and Grounds; Dave Bell, Grounds Supervisor I, Buildings and Grounds; JoAnne Peden, Documentary Filmmaker

I. Welcome and Introductions

Executive Director Rupert called the meeting to order at 9:11 am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

Chairman Sampson arrived.

II. Invocation

Chairman Sampson provided the invocation.

III. Initial Public Comment

Ms. Peden commented that she didn't know if her appearance at today's meeting was an agenda item. Mr. Sampson apologized for being tardy; he wasn't going to be able to attend due to a prior commitment, but is happy he was able to make it as he is a former student of the school and it is important for him to be present.

IV. Approval of September 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Delovio made a motion to approve the September 1, 2017 meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Badgett. The motion carried.

V. Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms

Executive Director Rupert explained there were no Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee submitted for approval.

VI. Election of Vice-Chairman of Stewart Advisory Committee

Chairman Sampson opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Ms. McDonald nominated Ms. Betty Badgett for Vice-Chairman of the Stewart Advisory Committee. There were no other nominations made. Nominations were closed. Ms. Badgett is the Vice-Chairman of the Stewart Advisory Committee by accession.

VII. Update on Stewart Indian School Master Plan – Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director

The Executive Director reported that Mr. Hershenow from H&K Architects was unable to attend the meeting, but will attend and make a presentation at the next meeting. Ms. Rupert commented that Mr. John Chiodo from Gallagher and Associates toured the campus and viewed the Stewart Indian School Documentary when he visited on September 29, 2017 to discuss the Master Plan Interpretive Framework. Since then, Gallagher and Associates have sent their corrected framework document for the NIC's input. Director Rupert explained that she thought the documentary was helpful in Mr. Chiodo's understanding of what Stewart Indian School means to the alumni.

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

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

The Executive Director reported that while the CCCHP Grant award for \$147,000 was received in the spring of 2016 to begin the seismic retrofit of the Cultural Center, it does not pay for the entire cost of the project. The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the Cultural Center did not get approved until the end of the legislative session (June 2017) and the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) needed to wait for the outcome of the CIP before any work could get started. The NIC has sent a request for an extension on the grant deadline to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The NIC has been notified that this request will be on the next agenda of the CCCHP and will be notified of the meeting date. The Executive Director has asked Mr. Hershenow of H&K Architects to be on hand to explain why an extension is required.

Applications for the next cycle of grants will be due soon. The NIC is looking into the possibility of using the funds for planning documents for either the Old Gym or the Auditorium. Ms. Rupert stated that the Carson City Culture and Tourism Authority is also interested in using the Auditorium for future events, as there are so few venues for plays or concerts in the Carson City area.

IX. Discussion of Recommendation on Paranormal Policy at the Stewart Indian School

The Executive Director commented that the NIC Board requested a recommendation from the Committee about its formal position on paranormal activities taking place at the Stewart Facility. Executive Director Rupert asked the Committee members for their comments. It was mentioned that there are YouTube videos showing people who stated that they have gone inside the buildings. This is frustrating to the Commission because only designated gym users are allowed to use the gym, and certainly nobody is authorized to enter the buildings at night. It was suggested that a packet of information on what is and what is not permissible be distributed to gym users, prior to them being issued a key. Ms. Rupert stated that the NIC will revise the gym usage agreement and also communicate with state agencies that lease buildings at the facility to educate them about properly respecting the buildings and the campus.

Mr. Sampson and the other committee members came to a consensus that a policy must be put into place discouraging paranormal activity at the former Stewart Indian School Campus. Director Rupert will prepare this recommendation for the NIC Board.

X. Update on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project – Marty Phillips, Grounds Supervisor II and Betty Badgett, Program Officer, State Public Works Division, Buildings and Grounds Section

Mr. Phillips stated that landscaping along with a new drip system around Building #11 off Wa-Pai-Shone is complete. Buildings and Grounds (B&G) will work on completing the stairs, along with the walkway on the side of the Auditorium building. Ms. Badgett mentioned that she would like to submit a request to replace the steps and turn it into a ramp for people who use wheelchairs. Ms. Rupert mentioned that the NIC would like to hold a blessing ceremony before work begins on the Cultural Center. She also mentioned that the SISPA and NIC would like to have a premiere of the Stewart Indian School Documentary and thought of using the Auditorium. Ms. Badgett stated she will look into this possibility of using the Auditorium, as a power source will need to be identified as well as renting restrooms for public use. The entryway to the Stewart Facility is still being discussed and Ms. Badgett said that the project is a priority, but the funding is not available until Fiscal Year 2020/2021.

Ms. Brown asked B&G what methods and products are used to take care of historic resources. Ms. Badgett explained that B&G is extremely careful about the chemicals that are used for cleaning. Ms. Brown recommended that a “Best Practices” document be composed and distributed regarding the proper cleaning of all the historic buildings on campus.

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

Museum Director Rahder stated that she and Curator Gibbons have phones now and that Committee members can call them directly. Ms. Rahder stated that she has been consulting Peter Barton, Administrator for the Division of Museums and History to get his input on how Nevada State museums operate. In addition to speaking to Mr. Barton, they have also met with Nevada State Museum’s staff to discuss hours of operation and staffing issues. Ms. Rahder and Ms. Gibbons attended the Nevada Museums Association Conference earlier this month. Ms. Rahder reported that she and the Curator have been working on a comprehensive Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Stewart Indian School Collection timeline and have scheduled additional times to review the collection at the Nevada Museum Annex. Ms. Rahder also shared that she and the Curator have also been in contact with two Ph.D. students that have completed research on the Stewart Indian School and are interested in sharing their research with the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center.

XII. Update on the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance and Discussion on the Stewart Indian School Documentary

Executive Director Rupert explained that the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) is the nonprofit arm of the NIC. Ms. Rupert reported that recently she met with SISPA and that some of the members have resigned their positions on the SISPA Board due to other responsibilities. She further reported that NIC Commissioner Kelly Krolicki is interested in assisting SISPA, along with Ms. Dee Freewert. Ms. Rupert commented that Ms. Freewert is very interested and will be an asset to SISPA. Neena Laxalt and Lisa Menante will exit shortly, but Kostan Lathouris and former NIC Board Member, Kathleen Quasula will remain for the time being. An inquiry was made in regard to whether SISPA members can be from out of state or only Nevada residents. Director Rupert responded that it may be a good idea to have high profile members from other areas of the country on the SISPA Board.

Ms. Rupert shared that the Stewart Indian School Documentary is just about complete and since the documentary was funded by SISPA, all proceeds will go back to the SISPA organization. Ms. Peden asked if the documentary is scheduled for viewing on a big screen. Ms. Rupert shared that the NIC would view the documentary on the big screen, October 30, 2017, at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).

XIII. Planning for 2017 Nevada Day Parade Entry and Post-Parade Event with the Nevada State Museum

The Executive Director reported the NIC has received confirmation that the Commission will be in the parade and that Ms. Rahder and Ms. Gibbons have been gathering alumni and descendants to participate on the float. Ms. Rupert reminded everyone that after the float goes through the parade, the NIC will have a booth at the Museum to educate museum attendees on the opening of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Welcome Centers. Also, the Museum is inviting Native artists to provide cultural activities like beading for kids and adults alike.

Ms. Rupert also shared that the La Ka Lel Be Powwow has outgrown its space at the Carson Colony Gym and will now be held at the Multi-Purpose Athletic Center (MAC) facility, next to the Boys and Girls Club, October 31 – November 2, 2017.

XIV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Suggestions for future agenda items include the October 13, 2017 meeting minutes, an update on the CCCHP Grant, an update on the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project, and a Master Plan presentation from H&K Architects. Any other requests for agenda items should be forwarded to Executive Director Rupert.

XV. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting

The next Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting has been scheduled for December 1, 2017 at 9:00am.

XVI. Committee Member Comments and Announcements

Mr. Canfield asked about the Stewart track and field project and where the Commission stands on that. Ms. Rupert stated that the project is currently on hold, but that she is still in discussions with that group. Ms. Rupert commented that currently any proceeds from the use of that area would go back to the state general fund. The NIC would like to see any proceeds from the use of the Stewart Indian School go back into the rehabilitation and preservation of the Stewart Indian School. It may take a change in current statute to make that happen.

Executive Director Rupert mentioned that the American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 4:30 -7:30pm. She announced that the Yupik youth dance group from Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, AK may be the entertainment for the evening. The Carson City Culture and Tourism Authority has offered to pay for their lodging and other organizations may be able to assist with funding their transportation needs and/or per diem while they are here.

Ms. Rupert shared the Stewart Indian School Yard Sale will be held on October 14, 2017 from 8:00am-2:00pm. She encouraged Committee members to donate their unwanted and gently used items to benefit the School.

Chairman Sampson mentioned that Stewart should have its own license plate and it would be a great fundraising tool.

Ms. Rupert commented that the NIC received a national award for the Stewart Father's Day Powwow from the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association; 2017-2018 Best Cultural Experience.

XVII. Final Public Comment

No final public comments were made.

XVIII. Adjournment

Ms. Badgett motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Delovio. The meeting adjourned at 11:11am.