

Nevada Indian Commission  
 June 2, 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-Harding	Knowledge of School	✓	

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

Others Present: Kristen Brown, State Historic Preservation Office; Larry Hale, Retired State of Nevada Buildings and Grounds Supervisor

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Sherry Rupert called the meeting to order at 9:05am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  - B. Kristen Brown, Architectural Historian for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) commented that she will be taking over for current representative Karyn deDufour, as she is working on other projects that consume her time. Kristen reported that she reviews all of the projects that Buildings and Grounds (B&G) is doing on the Stewart Campus.
  
- II. Invocation
  - A. The invocation was given by Sherry Rupert.
  
- III. Initial Public Comment
  - A. There were no public comments.
  
- IV. Approval of May 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes
  - A. Skip made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2017 with Max seconding the motion. The motion carried.
  
- V. Introduction of Stewart Indian School Cultural Center Museum Director, Bobbi Rahder
  - A. Ms. Rahder said that she is honored the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) hired her and feels the Stewart Indian School is very unique. Bobbi has extensive museum experience, and for 13 years worked at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS to

help them create and operate the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum.

- VI. Stewart Indian School Budgetary and Legislative Update
  - A. Sherry reported that the Commission had a very good session. The NIC's budget went through with a lot of support from the Legislature and received very few questions. Both the NIC and the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy did well.
  - B. Sherry reported that the Commission's request for Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funds has been approved and \$4.5 million will be used for construction of the Cultural and Welcome Centers. An additional \$1.2 million will be used for repairing the roof of the Old Gym in addition to a feasibility study to determine the best use of the building.
  - C. Sherry thanked the members of the Stewart Advisory Committee for their support.
  
- VII. Update on Stewart Indian School Master Plan
  - A. Sherry reported that last legislative session (2015), funding was approved for a Master Plan and then last August, the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) approved the NIC to use excess room tax funds to go toward enhancement of the Master Plan. One on one interviews were held in February, then a visionary meeting at the Governor's Mansion with Museum Management Consultants (MMC) was held in March.
  - B. Sherry said that a meeting was held with H&K Architects and they talked about what the Stewart Indian School campus could be. Some of the concepts they came up with are cultural tourism, community, and tribal. Sherry said that it will most likely be a combination of all three of these concepts. Once a single concept is determined, H&K will share it with everyone involved, including tribal leaders, stakeholders, and Stewart Indian School alumni. In addition, they will give a presentation to the Stewart Advisory Committee as well as the NIC Board.
  - C. Sherry reported that MMC is currently working on the interpretive piece of the Master Plan and will be meeting with them to discuss the concepts they have come up with. Sherry is hopeful that the NIC will receive the completed Master Plan as early as October of this year.
  
- VIII. Update on Grants for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy
  - A. 2016 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP) Grant – Sherry reported that there isn't much of an update because the Commission was waiting on the decision of whether the CIP would be approved by the Legislature. Now that it has, the seismic retrofit will be the first thing to be done and this will spend out the grant.
  - B. NV 150 Grant – Stewart Indian School Oral History Project – Chris reported that Terri McBride is almost finished compiling 15 oral history interviews with alumni and former employees of the Stewart Indian School. So far she has interviewed Joanne Nevers, Ruth Abbie, Robey Willis, Rolf Brown, Bea Allen, Billy Turner, Delbert Holley, Evelyn Cook, Ron Wopsock, Rudy Clark, Rupert Steele, and Roger Sam. Chris said that Terri will provide the NIC and interviewees with bound copies of the oral histories.
  
- IX. Update on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project
  - A. Betty reported that construction of a new loading dock and driveway at the B&G shop (Building #84) was approved and while she received several bids, only two vendors

would agree to preserve the rock. A vendor has since been chosen and this project will be completed within the next few months.

- B. Betty affirmed that the parking lot behind the Commission will be done very soon. Sherry commented that Sarah Cowie, an anthropologist from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) will monitor the project for any historical items found during paving.
  - C. Betty said that some trees were lost on the campus and that more planting has been done around the garden of Building #1. Betty said that leftover funding from this fiscal year will be carried over to Fiscal Year 2018/2019 because she feels that landscaping around the Auditorium should be a priority. Sherry added that the front entryway is part of the Master Plan and will need to be completed during the Fiscal Year 18/19 as well. Betty said that she has spoken with B&G Supervisor Jon Vietti about making the buildings more aesthetically pleasing by replacing porches and other upgrades in order to bring the buildings back to life.
  - D. Sherry said that sometimes paranormal groups request to visit the Stewart Indian School to “investigate” the spirits on campus. She stated that these activities go against everything that Native Americans believe. Sherry recommends that a policy be written because B&G approves the Special Use permits and the NIC is the coordinating agency for the facility and there isn’t a clear procedure on how to deal with these kinds of requests. Betty reported that Gus Nuñez, Administrator of the SPWD will be sending out a memo to inform tenants that they are able to use the Stewart Indian School for one purpose only; they don’t have authority to use the campus as they want. Betty commented that B&G does not make any decisions without authorization from the NIC and SHPO.
  - E. Kristen commented that the new use form is very helpful. Chris suggested that the Stewart Facility Property Use form be updated by adding choices for the form, such as listing what is being requested. Do they want to lease a building or just use it for the day? The form should also list what the acceptable/unacceptable uses at the Stewart campus are. The Committee agrees that all entities need to be respectful of the manner in which the campus is used.
  - F. Skip asked about the entrance monuments and whether B&G is working with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) on an encroachment permit and Betty confirmed this. Betty also shared with the group that Gus will be retiring in November 2017 and that procedures will likely change in some respects.
- X. Update on National Historic Landmark Nomination Preparation
- A. Sherry reported that Gregory Smoak and Amanda Fountain-Scheuerman from the America West Center, University of Utah, came out to the campus to view historical documents and other information to be utilized for drafting the nomination application. Chris commented that they are still in the research phase of the project and have requested a list of documents be forwarded to them.
- XI. Review and Discussion on the Stewart Indian School Documentary
- A. Sherry said that JoAnne needs more time to finish the documentary and will be showing it to the NIC staff next week. She said everything is coming along and it is almost done. Chris stated she met with Robey Willis last night and received permission to scan some

of the Stewart Indian School documents that he has in his personal scrapbook. Skip asked Chris how long Robey was at the school and Chris said he was here from the 1960s until after the school closed.

- XII. Update on the Status of Bureau of Indian Affairs Stewart Collection
- A. Chris reported that she met with Annie Pardo from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and spoke to her about the NIC's intent to get the Stewart Collection back. Ms. Pardo shared information about the possibility of the NIC becoming a repository for the Stewart Collection because the BIA doesn't give things back. Chris said that she is working on a thorough timeline and Sherry said the NIC will consult with Attorney General Wayne Howle on the legalities of this ongoing issue.
  - B. Bobbi commented that when she was at Haskell Cultural Center and Museum, a similar situation occurred. She stated that the BIA tried to take ownership of their collection, but fortunately it was still housed at Haskell. Bobbi also shared that the BIA had taken some files from Haskell in 2011 and to the best of her knowledge, the files have not been returned.
  - C. Chris said that the NIC will be working with Committee member Rachel Delovio and Gene Hattori to view the Stewart Collection.
  - D. Bobbi shared that she will visit the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ and will speak with the curator about their collection and whether they have had any issues with the BIA.
- XIII. Planning for the 2017 Nevada Day Parade Entry for the Stewart Indian School
- A. Sherry said that this year's Nevada Day Parade theme is 'Arts and Entertainment'. Arts and Entertainment is very broad and it would be great to make copies of some of the art that former Stewart Indian School students had made. Chris suggested having one of the Great Basin Native Artists on the float. Max's suggestion is to possibly have the Stewart Indian School band recreated and march alongside the float. Kristen asked if the band uniforms could be replicated and Max said the uniforms were always different each year. Bonnie added that vintage uniforms can be searched online. Max also suggested having the NIC float theme be "Home of the Braves" and the design of the float could show the Stewart rock. Max also stated that some of the Stewart Hall of Fame athletes could even drive in a car behind the float. Skip suggested taking the red color out of the Stewart S and replace it with the beautiful rock design instead. Sherry asked Denise to contact Paiute Pipeline for use of their truck and driver for the float.
- XIV. Discussion on Planning for 2017 Stewart Father's Day Powwow and 2018 Stewart Father's Day Powwow, Nevada Arts Council Project Grant
- A. Sherry stated that this year's Powwow is coming along quickly. The original Head Man and Woman were unable to participate so Marty Montgomery from Red Hoop and Francine Tohannie out of Fallon were selected to be this year's Head Man and Head Woman. Sherry went on to say that Arena Director, Sam Johnson, is also unable to participate due to needing back surgery. Sherry said that there are already 26 arts & crafts vendors and only four spaces left before the deadline on Friday, June 9, 2017. Sherry commented that last year people were standing in line for a long time to purchase an Indian taco, so this year the Powwow will have "Fry Bread Alley" with six Indian taco

vendors in one location. Fry Bread Alley will be in the area between Building #6 and the NIC office. Skip asked where campers will go since they are normally allowed here and Sherry said they will be able to camp on the grass next to the Auditorium.

- B. The Powwow Committee wants to have a Princess Pageant during the Alumni Reception on June 15, 2017 which will take place at the Plaza Hotel Events Center. Garnet Gates, Julia Parker and William Coffey, Jr. have been chosen as the award recipients.
  - C. Rachel asked Chris if the NIC needed the collection from the Nevada State Museum and Chris said that we will be using some items from the Stewart collection that is on site.
  - D. Sherry stated that the Stewart Community will be having a 5k Fun Run on Saturday morning, June 17, 2017. The Color Fun Run will begin at the Stewart Community building on Clear Creek Avenue and follow a specific path on the Stewart campus.
  - E. Sherry asked Committee members to consider volunteering their time during the Powwow, in addition to donating items for the raffle and silent auction.
- XV. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- A. The Stewart Indian School Oral History Project
  - B. The Stewart Indian School Documentary
  - C. The Nevada Day Parade
- XVI. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting
- A. The next Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2017 at 9:00am.
- XVII. Committee Member Comments and Announcements
- A. Sherry stated that eight students from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Alternative Break Program came back to Stewart and volunteered their time the week of May 14-19, 2017. They worked on cleaning the Auditorium and Dining Hall and condensed all items into one area so that representatives from the NIC, B&G, SHPO and the Division of Museums and History can go back through the buildings at a later date to decide which items have historical significance and will be kept and which to dispose of. In addition to service work, the students also visited Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake. Sherry said Jaqueline Steele, Chairwoman of the Stewart Community, presented the group with certificates thanking them for their assistance in cleaning up the cemetery.
- XVIII. Final Public Comment
- A. There were no final comments made at the meeting.
- XIX. Adjournment
- A. Skip made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Betty seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am.