

NIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 3, 2018 – 9:00am

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

Board Member	Seat Filled	Present	Absent
Richard Arnold, Chairman	Native American Representative	✓	
Kostan R. Lathouris, Vice-Chair	Native American Representative	✓	
Lori Pasqua, Commissioner	Native American Representative	✓	
Brian Wadsworth, Commissioner	Native American Representative	✓	
Kelly Krolicki, NIC Commissioner	General Public Representative	✓	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Sari Nichols, Program Officer 1; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director

Others Present: Kelly Clark, Native American Outreach Coordinator, USDA Rural Development; Gregg Berggren, Carson City Trails Coordinator; Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator, Carson City Open Space; Donna Inversin, Muscle Powered; Melyssa Navis, Tribal Liaison, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest; Dee Frewert, Vice-Chairman, SISPA; Juan F. Guzman, Carson Valley Trails Board; and Gregory Smoak, Director, American West Center, University of Utah

I. **Convene Meeting and Roll Call**

The meeting convened at 9:05am. The Executive Director took roll call, determining a quorum of four commissioners present.

II. **Invocation**

Chairman Arnold provides the invocation.

III. **Welcome and Introductions**

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

IV. **Administration of the Oath of Office for the New Commissioners Lori Pasqua and Brian Wadsworth**

Lori Pasqua and Brian Wadsworth introduced themselves and gave a brief background. Director Rupert gave the new Commissioners the Oath of Office as they repeated their oath. The Chairman offered congratulations to them.

V. **Initial Public Comments**

There were no initial comments.

VI. Chairman and Commissioner Announcements / Reports

Commissioner Krolicki announced that the Stewart Indian School documentary “Home of the Braves” was shown on Monday, December 17, 2018 at the Nevada Museum of Art at 5:00pm. The viewing for Southern Nevada was scheduled at a later time.

Chairman Arnold discussed the positive comments that he received about the banquet. He asked Director Rupert if she would be mentioning the resignation of Mr. Crawford in her report. She stated that she would not be mentioning it. The ITCN will be having a meeting soon. They are looking for an executive director at this time. Interim Director, Gloria Smith (the director of the Head Start Program for the Inter-Tribal Council) will be sitting in for now. Director Rupert will be contacting Len George, President of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada to find out the status of the vacant position.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Executive Director NIC Staff Report

Director Rupert reported that an internal audit of the agency recently concluded there were a few issues that arose that have been corrected and the final report is expected from the Internal Audit Division team very soon. She will be sure to share this with the Board at the next meeting.

The NIC items for the 2019 Legislative Session have two bill draft requests. The commission can receive State of Nevada funds for capital projects. Last session (2017) we received \$1.2 million for a new roof for the old gym. The project will begin in the spring of 2019.

The NIC has requested that the rehabilitation of Building #19 (former bakery/post office) be used for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum’s collection storage. Due to its new roof and newer floors, it would be ideal to be used for storage. The estimates for this project would be approximately \$999,000.

Commissioner Pasqua inquired about the preservation of the collection and if it would items needed for preservation like special kinds of enclosures. Director Rupert explained the items included in the proposed budget.

B. Report on the Follow-Up to 2018 Tribal Visits

For the new commissioners, a spreadsheet was created on the 2018 Tribal visits and the follow up accomplished to this point. Director Rupert explained that she and Ms. Nichols traveled to Eastern Nevada, along with four Commissioners to hold the NIC quarterly meeting in Owyhee, NV with the Duck Valley Shoshone Paiute Tribe. On the way, three commissioners accompanied the Director and Ms. Nichols. Director Rupert went through the list of Tribes she was able to visit, their concerns and the follow up she has been able to complete in this timeframe.

The Commission noted that the updates were helpful. Commissioner Krolicki had a few comments about the Lovelock situation. She wanted to look for a permanent solution for the issue with the school fees. She proposed a waiver for these fees. She offered to work with the education committee to have some of these fees waived. The Chairman would like to see the State of Nevada Department of Education investigate these fees and work to resolve them. He would also like to see a written report with the findings and resolutions. Commissioner Lathouris volunteered to visit these tribes

and offer assistance with this matter. Commissioner Wadsworth had offered assistance with the housing issues as he has contacts with housing.

C. Stewart Advisory Committee Report

There were no questions on this report.

D. 2018 American Indian Achievement Award Banquet Report

The Executive Director provided a brief summary of the event: There were six tables sold at the event with a profit of \$13,245 in 2018, as compared to \$10,649 in 2017. This was a 6% increase over 2017. This year there were additional costs for rentals as the NIC had to pay for tables, chairs, linens, and the stage. The venue was discussed briefly on whether to keep the event at the Stewart Gym or return back to the Governor's Mansion. Pros and cons of each were discussed. Further discussion is needed to decide the venue for next year's location. The Executive Director also reported that the silent auction event was one of the largest to date with over fifty items. Director Rupert thanked Bobbi Rahder for her hard work on the silent auction and for enlisted the assistance of volunteers to help secure the auction items.

Commissioner Krolicki made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Pasqua. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

VIII. Miscellaneous Reports

A. Indian Territory Report on Projects and Activities

Ms. Nichols was on hand to answer any questions on the Indian Territory report. A question was asked about the relocation of the Indian Territory exhibit at Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The Territory is being asked to relocate the exhibit due to the addition of a new elevator to meet ADA requirements. The exhibit would be relocated from the top of the arrivals escalators to the bottom of the escalators in the arrivals waiting lounge. There was a discussion about the possibility of utilizing both areas at the airport. The Director stated that the downstairs area is larger and would be more costly to renovate/update than the upstairs location. The Director is waiting for a proposal to see how to best utilize the grant. It was mentioned that there is no exhibit at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas.

IX. Presentation on the Proposed Clear Creek Trailhead Proposal and Request for Letter of Support

Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator at Carson City Open Space gave the background for their "Open Space" program. Upon the passing of the "Quality of Life Initiative" bill, Carson City used funds from taxes to leverage grants. They worked with landowners and negotiated with federal lands. These funds were also used to manage the land. The newest acquisition was a hundred acres in Clear Creek. In 2015, the Nevada Legislature passed a bill (AB15) that required the profits from the sale of properties by State Lands to benefit Stewart Indian School. Senator Pete Goicoechea wrote a letter to State Lands for the parcels to remain as open space. The discussion continued on the land values in this area.

Commissioner Pasqua asked Open Space to reach out to the Washoe Tribe's Cultural Preservation Committee. She mentioned that this would be the first step. Commissioner Krolicki wanted to know what the property was worth. Mr. Berggren stated it is worth more than what is in the Open Space

account. Director Rupert discussed the plan to re-do the trails. She would like to entertain Carson City to change the “S” on the hill. She asked about further conversations Open Space has had with State Lands. Kelly Clark discussed the conversations with Mr. Donahue about the sale of the land which is not for sale at this time.

Commissioner Pasqua made a motion to table this motion until the next meeting pending additional request for information. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wadsworth. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

X. Presentation on Advancing Voting and Civic Participation in Nevada with a Request for any Known Needs for Nevada Tribes as it Pertains to Voter Registration, Voting or Engaging Elected Officials

Sondra Cosgrove gave a brief summary of the services that her organization offers. She wanted to let the Board know that she was looking forward to working with the tribes to assist them with their voter registration, voter guides, advocacy training and other services. Chairman Arnold wanted to make sure that the tribal people were getting the correct information and were engaging the right sources for their needs. It was said that holding voting activities on the reservations were necessary because of the distance to regular polling areas.

XI. New Commissioner Orientation and Informational Presentation on Nevada Indian Commission Statute (NRS 233A), Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Deputy Attorney General, Wayne Howle, made his introduction to the Board and explained what his function was. He explained the purpose of the Commission and its function by going through the NIC’s authorizing statute NRS 233A.

There was discussion in regard to the NIC budget and how it is allocated. It was explained that the Executive Director projects out expenses for the fiscal year based upon historical knowledge, immediate and future known needs. The Nevada Indian Commission is housed under the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA) where the NIC had previously been under the Department Health and Human Services. The DTCA provides fiscal support to the NIC. The Commission inquired about the procedure to obtain additional funding in the budget for Commissioner travel. Director Rupert explained that a budget request would need to be developed for the next legislative cycle. Chief Deputy Attorney General Howle noted that the budget (requesting funds and allocating funds) was the responsibility of the Executive Director as part of administrative duties authorized in statute.

XII. Presentation on 100% Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Exhibit Design and Request for Input from the Nevada Indian Commissioners

The Museum Director reported that they are working on a plan of operations for the museum’s policy and procedures. Construction will begin the summer of 2018. The museum staff is working with Gallagher and Associates, the professional exhibit designers. This will take place on the first floor of the museum, while the lower level will be for educational activities.

The museum staff is working with local native artists that are sharing their prospective on the history of Stewart Indian School that assists in the design of the museum. This includes consultant, Samantha Williams who is writing a dissertation on Stewart Indian School and its ninety years of history.

On December 10, 2018 there was a meeting with State Public Works and the fabricating companies. This was to decide who would produce the exhibit. The contact was bid on and reviewed in January 2019. The project will begin in March 2019. The plan for the grand opening will be the fall 2019.

XIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Update on Tribal Appointment to the Board of Museums and History and the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation.

Executive Director Rupert reported that revisions to NRS 381 were approved during the last legislative session (SB244). This is an historic preservation statute. One component of the revisions that were made were assigned to the Executive Director and that was to assist in finding candidates to fill the new tribal seat on the Board of Museums and History and the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation. Director Rupert reported that Governor Sandoval appointed E'sha Hoferer, a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe.

- B. Approval of the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) By-Laws.

Director Rupert explained that the Commission had many items in the IEAC by-laws that they wanted addressed and she was asked by the Commission to meet with the IEAC to go over the by-laws and make it a little more succinct. The Director reported that she met with the IEAC and is now requesting approval of the revised by-laws from the Commission.

Vice-Chairman Lathouris motioned to approve the IEAC By-Laws, seconded by Commissioner Krolicki. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

- C. Update on Tribal Consultation Study of Nevada State Departments.

Director Rupert was asked in the prior board meeting to complete a study on Tribal Consultation within the Nevada Departments. She sent requests out to state agencies. However, as she explained the departments and agencies are focused on their budgets and legislation (in preparation for the Legislature) at the time. The NIC will continue to follow-up with the state departments. This will be a good resource because the tribes are working to have legislation passed that would mandate state agencies to consult with tribes. This is important as the NIC may be called upon to testify before the Legislature.

XIV. New Business

- A. Approval of Indian Education Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Form for Priscilla Acosta, Compliance Supervisor and Tribal Coordinator, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada.

Director Rupert presented the application for Priscilla Acosta. Priscilla Acosta was seeking to be a member of the Indian Education Advisory Committee. This would be her first time on this particular committee. This form was approved by the Indian Education Advisory Committee in September (2018). The Committee is now seeking approval from the Commission.

- B. Discussion and Possible Approval of National Historic Landmark Nomination Application for the Stewart Indian School.

Mr. Smoak explained the process of the landmark nomination. He briefly summarized the nomination and asked the Board for any input. Vice-Chairman Lathouris commented that the nomination does not have enough focus on the multi-generational historical trauma and its negative effects on tribal people. Executive Director mentioned that she had some edits and would be happy to assist with language to strengthen this section in the nomination. Chairman Arnold asked that any corrections/language be shared with the Commissioners. Executive Director Rupert also mentioned that she will need to meet with the Washoe Tribe to see if they wanted to include the buildings that are on tribal land and the implications of doing so. Mr. Smoak will provide information on these implications for the Executive Director to share with the Washoe Tribe.

Commissioner Pasqua motioned to have the Executive Director provide the additional edits to the nomination to the board and to provide the information to the Washoe Tribe, seconded by Commissioner Krolicki. The motion was carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

XV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

The following were suggested items for future meetings: follow-up on the Clear Creek issue, follow-up on the NHL nomination application, revision of NIC Administrative Regulation, feasibility of a Mining Summit, update on follow up to tribal visits, meeting minutes, introduction of new ITCN Executive Director when hired, and an update from SISPA.

XVI. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 2019. The Executive Director will send a Doodle poll for potential meeting dates to Commissioners.

XVII. Final Public Comment

There were no public comments.

XVIII. Adjournment


Commissioner Wadsworth moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Lathouris. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 1:23pm.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstention, 1 absent, at a meeting duly held on

March 13, 2019.

Certified by:

 3/13/19

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission

