

**Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2019**

Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

| <b>Committee Member</b> | <b>Seat Filled</b>                  | <b>Present</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Buck Sampson, Chairman  | Alumni                              |                | X             |
| Ron Bodnar              | State Building 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              |               |
| Terri McBride           | Knowledge of School                 | X              |               |

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Sari Nichols, Program Officer 1, Nevada Indian Commission; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum; and Diane Buckley, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission.

Others Present: Billie Jean Guerrero, Museum Director, Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center; Anna Camp, Curator 1, Nevada State Museum; Aletha Tom, Stewart Alumni.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

In the Chairman's absence, Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 9:00am and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**II. Invocation**

Aletha Tom provided the invocation.

**III. Initial Public Comment**

No initial public comments were made.

**IV. Approval of December 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Max Symonds made a motion to approve the December 14, 2018 meeting minutes, seconded by Meg McDonald. The motion carried.**

**V. Update on Grants for the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy**

**A. 2018 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Grant Award**

Director Rupert reported that the grants were originally approved for \$709,000, to begin planning for the auditorium. A notice was received that there were additional funds available and the

Commission would now receive \$83,994. The Commission has been trying to work with the State's Public Works Division on a scope of work. Director Rupert met with them in January and it was conveyed to her that when the Commission goes after funds, it is better to work with the State's Public Works Division up front. This was new information not shared prior to The Commission sent an email to Kent LeFevre requesting an agency project for the Indian Commission, and asked for his assistance in drafting a scope of work. The Commission received an email from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that the information was needed by April 1, 2019. The Commission has not yet had any response. The scope of work is important because SHPO requires that for the grant. The Commission has to have a scope of work and a revised budget. The \$84,000 is not enough to complete a full schematic design for the auditorium. There was a question for why it is so expensive for the schematic design. Director Rupert explained that the auditorium building does not have any restrooms. There is a concern about the parking for that particular building as well. Originally when the Commission looked at renovating these buildings, the focus was just on the building. There wasn't a full awareness for what was needed to make the building inhabitable. This is the issue that the Indian Commission is running into with the State Public Works Division.

It was further asked what the \$84,000 was actually paying for. The funds are only paying for the schematic designs. A question was raised about obtaining quotes from other architectural firms. The Director explained that this was part of what the State Public Works Division was going to investigate. This grant does not cover state Public Works Division fees. The fees will need to be covered by the Indian Commission gift fund. If there aren't enough funds in the gift fund, then the Commission will need to raise funds. Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) is the Indian Commission's fund raising arm and they are a non-profit. There aren't enough funds in the CIP to complete the porch which is \$150,000. The construction bid came in at a higher amount, so the porch has been removed from the current budget on the project. The Indian Commission has looked outside for other funding. The Indian Commission has asked SISPA to raise funds for the porch.

## **VI. Update from Stewart Indian School Buildings and Grounds**

Ron Bodnar reported on the letters for the Stewart gym. This project has been pushed back. Buildings and Grounds does not know when this will begin yet. At the last meeting, Director Rupert had inquired whose responsibility would it be to get the kitchen area in the gym up and running. Ron informed the committee that the completion of the kitchen would be the vendor's responsibility. Buildings and Grounds will just be providing the space and the vendor will install the appliances.

## **VII. Update and Discussion on Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum**

Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director reported on the progress of the construction for the new cultural center and museum. The cultural center and museum has a budget through the Indian Commission. She has requested items of consideration, an operating budget. This includes hiring two new positions, educational activities, and other operational budget items. The new governor didn't add these items in his recommendations. Director Rupert had been meeting with the liaison in the governor's office to make changes to the budget. There have been additional meetings with the legislative sub-committee to inform them of the situation. The doors to the new cultural center and museum cannot be opened unless there is an operating budget. Director Rupert explained that the problem is with the governor's budget division. One of the new bills creates the new operating budget in the statutes. It creates the authority for the museum director to bring in revenue to the new cultural center and museum. If this legislation is passed, the cultural center and museum will need an operating budget in order to open up the building.

A question was asked if we were at a point to have asked for this funding in the last legislative session. Director Rupert said that she inquired of the Attorney General's Office in the last session. They said that this was implied that the Nevada Indian Commission was authorized to have the cultural center and museum within the Commission. However, there was no statute that gave the Museum Director the authority to bring in the revenue. This needs to be in statute. Bobbi Rahder mentioned that she had conversations with Peter Barton about how other state museums are established in statute, and similar language was used.

Bobbi Rahder reported on the approval of the final designs for the exhibit by Gallagher and Associates. They are contracting with additional artists from different tribes in Nevada to provide the art for the building. Bobbi would like to take some of the plans and designs out to the different tribes and former alumni to get their input. She is working with Aletha to bring this presentation to Las Vegas and invite the tribes to attend. There are also plans to bring the presentation to Yerington.

The museum has scheduled tours for this spring. Bobbi had put together a display about the museum, information about Stewart, and the needs that she has for opening the museum. This display was featured at Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. Bobbi will be attending the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference this October in San Diego. This is a panel about boarding school museums. This discussion will interpret the sad history of the boarding schools and how it affected native families.

Bobbi and Chris have been meeting with H & K Architects and Public Works on the construction of the cultural center every month. Completion of the cultural center will depend on getting the appropriate lighting supplies. Bobbi wants to be able to give tours of the building during the Powwow in June.

Travel Nevada has been speaking to the media about the opening of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. In a recent article in Forbes magazine and the Smithsonian magazine, Stewart Cultural Center and Museum was mentioned as one of the most exciting museum openings for 2019. Carson City was listed in the travel channel's most livable cities and the Railroad Museum and the Stewart Indian School Museum were also mentioned. Travel Nevada had pitched the story to Frommers about the new exhibit.

Director Rupert, Bobbi and Chris participated in interviews of two fabricating companies for the new exhibit. The State Public Works Division will draft the contract with the fabricating company chosen for the project. This will then go to the Board of Examiners in April for approval.

Director Rupert received an email from Senator Scheible, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee requesting a presentation on the Nevada Tribes.

A question was asked about the Indian Commission finding boxes with old history. Bobbi responded that Director Rupert and Chris had been collecting Stewart items for several years which are now stored away. The old Stewart Indian Museum items were moved to the Nevada State Museum Annex. Once Bobbi and Chris know what items that they want to borrow from that collection, they will work with Rachel Delovio and the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the loan for these items.

Bobbi stated that the CIP bakery project had been included in the Governor's Recommended Budget. If this is approved, it will be the new storage building for the Stewart Indian School collection. Chris spoke with some of the people that have worked at Stewart and some of the alumni to obtain artifacts for the museum.

## **VIII. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee**

Director Rupert reported that there was one Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Form for approval. The form was for Ron Bodnar, Facilities Supervisor for State of Nevada Buildings and Grounds.

**Max Symonds made a motion to approve the Appointment of Representative form for Ron Bodnar, seconded by Skip Canfield. The motion carried.**

**IX. Report on Stewart Indian School Documentary Premier from the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA)**

Director Rupert reported for SISPA Chairman, Kostan Lathouris. The premier took place at the Nevada Museum of Art on December 17, 2018. There were approximately 300 in attendance. The alumni attended this event. The panel which included alumni immediately followed the premier. After the event, there were some discussions and comments about the Director being non-native and perhaps some details about the whole story that may not have been told, which includes the abuse. There will be additional showings of the film, but it has not been scheduled.

There was discussion about showing the film to the Legislature. The final proceeds for the premiere have not yet been finalized. Copies of the documentary are for sale. Ms. Aletha shared her experiences with student life at Stewart Indian School. Billie Jean brought in a few of the flyers for her event that invites Stewart Alumni to view plans for the new Cultural Center.

**X. Update on National Historic Landmark Nomination Application for the Stewart Indian School**

Director Rupert reported that at the last meeting, Mr. Gregory Smoake, American West Center had drafted the national landmark application for the Stewart Indian School. Director Rupert made some revisions to it. There were questions about the buildings that the Washoe Tribe owns, and whether the Washoe Tribe wants to include those in the nomination. After speaking to Chairman Smokey, it was suggested that the Director should speak with the Washoe Tribal Council to get a decision. Then the Commission could move forward with the nomination. The Commission wanted to make sure that the Washoe Tribe is in agreement before the nomination goes to the National Park Service.

**XI. Update on the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature**

Director Rupert reported on the legislation that the Indian Commission has introduced in the session. AB44 was discussed. This legislation creates the Stewart Indian School and Museum within the Commission's NRS. This will authorize the Museum Director to establish a store for the sale of gifts and souvenirs, to establish certain accounts, and granting the Executive Director the authority to appoint and supervise the Museum, and revise provisions governing the Nevada Indian Commission's gift fund. The initial budget request hearing took place a couple of weeks ago and the Legislature has asked the Commission questions about the Cultural Center and about the challenges that the Commission is experiencing. The Commission is now communicating the information to the Legislature.

SB59 was also discussed. This legislation is for rental proceeds for buildings and grounds at the Stewart Indian School. The intent is for the rental proceeds for the rental of buildings and grounds event space at the Stewart Indian School to be deposited into the Indian Commission's gift fund for further preservation of the school. The Commission had ideas for these other buildings on campus. If this is going to happen then the Commission is going to have to bring revenue in. If the Commission is going to have a master plan, we will need to develop the relationships and look at ways to bring in revenue. The Director explained to the Legislature about Stewart and the master plan. In addition she

explained why SB59 is important. Supporters for the Commission were present at the hearing. This bill has been one of the first bills to be presented in the Senates Government Affairs Committee.

Bobbi commented about the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the collection storage. This is the bakery building. This building has made it through the Governor's Recommended Budget. The roof for the old gym was not included. The Director had been speaking to the Governor's office about the details. It will be up to the Commission's supporters and advocates to testify at the Legislature on behalf of the Museum and Cultural Center to open. The Commission will forward the committee information to the Advisory Committee.

## **XII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

The following agenda items for the next meeting: Election of the Vice-Chair, new committee members, and the Legislative update.

## **XIII. Scheduling and Location of the Next Meeting**

Director Rupert distributed the 2019 meeting calendar. The next Stewart Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for Friday, April 5, 2019.

## **XIV. Committee Member Comments and Announcements**

Skip Canfield wants to hear more stories like Aletha Tom at these Advisory Committee meetings. Director Rupert reminded everyone about the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day and the Stewart walking tour on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

## **XV. Final Public Comment**

There were no final public comments.

## **XVI. Adjournment**

**Max Symonds made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Billie Jean, The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.**