

**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 Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Sari Nichols, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum; Diane Buckley, Administrative Assistant III, Nevada Indian Commission

Others Present: Billie Jean Guerrero, Museum Director, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Anna Camp, Curator, Nevada State Museum; Aletha Thom, Alumni, Stewart Indian School

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

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

**II. Invocation**

Aletha Thom 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 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 \$70,000, to begin planning for the auditorium. A notice was received that there were additional funds available and we would now

receive \$83,994. The commission has been trying to work with the state's Public Works Division on a scope of work. The director 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 Public Works Division. This was new information to the director that she was not told before. The commission sent an email to Kent Lafever requesting an agency project for the Indian Commission and asked for his assistance for 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 had a response yet. 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 as to 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. 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's Public Works Division.

It was further asked what the \$84,000 was 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's 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. These fees will need to come out of the gift fund. If there aren't enough funds in the gift fund, then we will need to raise funds. The 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 \$50,000. 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 gym. The painting project has been pushed back. Buildings and Grounds does not know when this will begin. Ron informed the committee that the painting of the kitchen will 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 requested items of consideration and 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. Director Rupert explained that 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 it was mentioned to the attorney general's office in the last session. It was said that this was implied that the cultural center and museum had this operating budget. However, there was no statute that gave the museum director the authority. In this session, it was mentioned that the cultural center and museum needs to have this 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 from Gallagher and Associates. They are contracting with additional artists from different Tribes in Nevada to provide the art for the building. It is important to have a good representation from many Tribes in Nevada. They have been working on the text labels for the project with the assistance of Gallagher and Associates. Bobbi would like to take some of the plans and designs out to the different Tribes and former alumni to get their input. She worked with Ms. Tom to bring this presentation to Las Vegas and invite the Tribes to attend. There are plans to bring the presentation to Yerington.

There are tours that have been filling up from schools 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 at the Tribes Legislative Day. She has just proposed a session at the Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums Conference this October in San Diego. This is a panel about boarding school museums. This is a discussion that interprets the sad history of the boarding schools and how it affected native families. This used alumni stories to interpret the history.

Bobbi Rahder and Chris Gibbons have been meeting with the architect and Public Works on all the construction each monthly. Ms. Rahder reports to the Director Montooth on the progress. The completion schedule depends upon getting lighting supplies. Ms. Rahder wants to be able to give tours of the building during Powwow in June. Ms. Rahder has a marketing plan about the opening of the cultural center and museum. Travel Nevada has been speaking to the public about the opening. There had been an article in Forbes magazine and the Smithsonian magazine where the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum is going to be one of the most exciting museum openings in 2019. Carson City was listed in the travel channel's most livable cities. The Railroad Museum and the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum were mentioned. Travel Nevada had pitched the story to Fromers about the new exhibit. Bobbi Rahder and Chris Gibbons interviewed two fabricating companies to fabricate and install the exhibit. Public Works will write up the contact with the fabricating company chosen for the project. This will go to the board of examiners in April to be approved.

Director Rupert received an email from Senator Sharply, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee in the Senate. He had asked Director Rupert to do a presentation on the Tribes.

A question was asked about the Indian Commission finding boxes with old history. Bobbi responded that Director Rupert and Chris had been collection old history for several years which are now stored away. The old Stewart Indian Museum items were moved to the Nevada State Museum Annex Once Ms.

Rahder and Ms. Gibbons know what items that they want to borrow from that collection. They will work with Rachel Delonio (Bureau of Indian Affairs) and the Curator on the loan of these items.

Bobbi stated that the CIP bakery project had been included in the governor's recommendation. If this is approved, it will be the storage building for the collection. Chris had contact with some of the people that had worked here 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 on the new appointment of representative form for Ron Bodnar, Facilities Supervisor for the Buildings and Grounds, State Public Works Division.

**Max Symonds made a motion to approve the appointment of Ron Bodnar. Seconded by Skip Canfield. The motion carried.**

#### **IX. Report on Stewart Indian School Documentary Premier from Stewart Advisory Committee**

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

The discussion included showing the film to the legislature. Proceeds from the film were split between the Indian Commission and SISPA. Copies of the documentary are for sale. Ms. Tom shared her experiences with student life at the Stewart Indian School.

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

Director Rupert reported that at the last meeting Mr. Gregory Smoke 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. Did the Washoe Tribe want to include those buildings in the nomination. After speaking to Chairman Smokey, it was suggested that the director speak with the Washoe Tribal Council to get a decision. The commission can move forward to receiving a nomination. The commission wants to make sure that the Washoe Tribe will agree before the nomination goes to the National Park Service.

A question was asked about the Washoe Tribe using this nomination to make repairs to their buildings.

#### **XI. Update on the 80<sup>th</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature**

Director Rupert reported on the Indian Commission's legislation for the session. AB44 was discussed. The initial budget request hearing was held a couple of weeks ago and the legislature asked the commission questions about the cultural center and the challenges that the commission is experiencing. The commission is now communicating the information to the legislature. SB59 was discussed. The intent for rental proceeds for buildings and grounds event space goes to the Indian Commission's gift fund for further preservation of Stewart Indian 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 move forward with the master plan, they 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. Legislative questions about a fiscal note are being cleared up by the director. This bill has been one of the first bills to be presented in the Government Affairs Committee. Ms. Rahder spoke about the capital improvement project for the collection storage, which is the bakery building. This made it through the governor's recommended budget. The roof for the old gym was not included. The director had been talking to the governor's office about this. 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 were suggested agenda items for the next meeting. The election of the vice-chair and new committee members, and a 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**

Director Rupert reminded everyone about the Nevada Tribes Day at the Legislature and the Stewart walking tour in the afternoon 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 Meg McDonald. The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.**