

**Nevada Indian Commission  
Stewart Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 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, 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, Nevada State Museum; Aletha Tom, Stewart Alumnus.

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

In the Chairman’s absence, Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m. 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 February 8, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Max Symonds made a motion to table the February 8, 2019 meeting minutes till the next meeting. Seconded by Skip Canfield. 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

Sari Nichols, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission reported on the grant for the schematic design for the auditorium. She is working with the State of Nevada Public Works and Max

Hershenow, H & K Architects for the schematic design. The Nevada Indian Commission has submitted the revised scope of work and budget to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). We are now reviewing the funding agreement from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) that we received this.

#### B. Nevada Arts Council Grant Application Submission

Sari Nichols updated the Committee on the details of the \$5,000 grant for the 2020 Powwow. The Nevada Arts Council was helpful answering questions about the grant. This year there appears to be more leniency for the Commission on the grant. The Commission should hear back in a couple of months. Ms. Nichols attended a workshop at the Nevada Arts Council that reviews the grants. She gave her input regarding the budget, added her submission with the grant and made suggestions. She took this feedback and worked with the Nevada Arts Council.

Director Rupert added that a lot of the judges for these grants are not from Nevada and they don't know much about the Native Culture. The Nevada Indian Commission is the only Native event that applies for this grant. The Commission has informed the Tribes about this grant, but none of the Tribes have applied yet.

#### **VI. Update from Stewart Indian School Buildings and Grounds – Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facility Supervisor, Buildings and Grounds Section, State Public Works Division**

Ron Bodnar, Buildings and Grounds reported on upcoming special projects on the Stewart campus. There are no new projects on the calendar. The letters in the gym have been completed. The painter that completed the work is Michael Carpenter. Director Rupert will forward the pictures of the letters to the donor that paid for the lettering.

Sari Nichols asked Ron about a project for State of Nevada Public Works. This project will hook the water from the Stewart campus up to Carson City water. Ron confirmed that the entire Stewart campus will eventually be on Carson City water. The tower will be used for irrigation only. This project will take several years to complete.

Director Rupert asked Ron about the preparations for the Powwow this year since Buildings and Grounds had lost a staff member. She wants to know if there will be additional costs for their assistance for the Powwow. Ron will be speaking with Miles Johnson about the Commission's needs for the Powwow. He will let the Commission know the outcome. Director Rupert restated her concerns for the needs of the Commission during the Powwow and what the support from Buildings and Grounds would be. Will there be any additional costs involved. Ron will be discussing these concerns with Mike Johnson as well.

#### **VII. Update and Discussion on Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum – Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum**

Director Rupert informed the committee that the walk-through at the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum will be postponed because there are no construction personnel to lead the group at this time.

Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director reported on AB44. The bill is still in the Ways and Means

Committee in the Assembly. Ms. Rahder thanked the alumni that came to the legislature to testify and share their stories in the committee hearing. Director Rupert explained that the bill will be up for a work session soon. It is still in the Ways and Means Committee because it has a fiscal note attached to it. After the Assembly votes on the bill, it will go to the Senate. This legislation would give the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum an operating budget so the doors can open.

The Museum is inventorying books donated by Betts Markle from the State Library. This will be the basis for the collection room at the Museum. Bobbi and Chris have been finalizing text labels for the Museum Exhibit and are now waiting for the proofs to make final corrections. All the final artwork has been turned in to Gallagher and Associates. There will be a phone conference with Gallagher and Associates to discuss the details. Bobbi and Chris are working with Rachel to borrow some items from the "Under One Sky" Exhibit.

Bobbi sent a letter to Annie Pardo at the Bureau of Indian Affairs asking to borrow Stewart items from the Indian Hill Curatorial Center for the Exhibit. They are continuing to work with the State Library of Archives to digitize yearbooks. There is a presentation scheduled for Journey Education in May 2019.

The Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum have reached out to the Tribes since the last Committee meeting. They visited Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Washoe Cultural Committee; Elko Band Council; Moapa Band of Paiutes; and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. There are future plans to visit Tribes in Bishop and Phoenix. They received a lot of input on the museum that will feature the "Story Book" section in the Museum, which includes the part of the Exhibit that features the impact on families and the boarding schools. Bobbi and Chris have turned in the final texts and they are now waiting on approval from Gallagher and Associates. They also turned in all the final artwork. Bobbi and Chris worked with Ben Alek and Melissa Malero that had contacted several different Native artists in the state. The goal was to have representatives from the Great Basin Tribes.

There will be a presentation at the Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums Conference in October 2019. Bobbi and Chris will be making a presentation at the Western History Conference in Las Vegas in October 2019. They will be providing information to Stewart Alumni and the Tribes through First Nations Focus, and Tribal newsletters about the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum plans and progress.

Bobbi and Chris met with Marc Burns with Pacific Studios on the Exhibit fabrication. We had a Board of Examiners meeting to approve the contract this month.

Bobbi and Chris are working with Max and Brian on "Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment. The constructions meetings are weekly on Thursday in the Nevada Indian Commission conference room. The construction completion date is set for mid-July 2019. Bobbi hasn't heard anything more about the work to be done on the old bakery building.

Lori Bagwell with Carson City finished the design for the Christmas ornament. It will be ready in August. Chris continues to post updates to the Stewart Indian School Facebook site and the Stewart Indian School Living Legacy website.

Aletha Tom asked about a museum fee to gain access to the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Bobbi explained about the activities that the Museum will have that will have a fee, and the charges for membership. This will be revenue for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum.

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

Director Rupert reported on the new Appointment of Representative Form for Aletha Tom, a Stewart Indian School Alumni from the Washoe Band of Paiutes.

**Rachel Delovio made a motion to approve the appointment for Aletha Tom. Seconded by Skip Canfield. The motion carried.**

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

Director Rupert reported on Nomination Application which she has made final edits to. She is waiting to hear back from the Washoe Tribe to see if they want to include Building #26 in the Landmark Nomination. Currently, the text does not include their building. The Director met with Chairman Serrell Smokey of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Chairman Smokey said he would meet with Daryl Cruz, his cultural resource person and the Tribal Council. Director Rupert will follow-up with this so the Commission can vote on this. Once this has been decided, the University of Utah can submit the Application to the National Park Service.

Ron Bodnar explained that the Washoe Tribe may be thinking about moving back in the building. The building may be useful to the Washoe Tribe.

## **X. Update on the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature**

Director Rupert reported on SB59. The Commission could eventually rent this building out and the proceeds would be deposited into the gift account. There are fiscal notes attached to this bill. The Department of State Lands have a fiscal note included in this bill. The Governor's Finance Office is concerned that the funds in the fiscal note will be allotted to the general fund, but the funds will be allocated into the gift fund. The Commission has been informed by the Governor's Finance Office that these accounts are treated the same. The difference between the two accounts is that the general fund doesn't carry forward for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. If these funds are in the gift fund, it will carry forward and the Commission can keep the funds for the Stewart Indian School and Museum.

Sari Nichols commented that during the Commission's previous audit, they reviewed how a gift account is supposed to be used. There was further discussion about how the general fund is used. Director Rupert discussed how this fund is used. She stated that one account carries forward into the next fiscal year and the other one does not. The grants the Commission receives for the "Bricks and Mortar" part of it or for the planning documents, it doesn't pay for the State Public Works Division's oversight. The Commission has to pay for this. This comes out of the Commission's gift fund. Funds have to be deposited into the gift fund continuously.

A question was asked about the Commission having to reimburse the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA). The Commission paid for the last two payments on the last two invoices for the Stewart Living Legacy documentary. It was the Stewart Father's Day Powwow Committee that loaned the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA) for the start up.

Director Rupert discussed AB264, which involves the Commission and the Tribes. There are amendments that the Commission received from the Governor's Office on this bill. This bill is in regard to Consultation between State Government and the Tribal Governments. It clarifies what the roll of the Nevada Indian Commission will be. The Governor's Office wants to make sure they will be empowered by this bill and not

diminished by the bill. The Tribes are Sovereign Nations and they have the right to go directly to the State Departments and have resolutions made on policies and issues without being mandated to go through the Nevada Indian Commission. The goal is to empower the Nevada Indian Commission so they are informed on what is going on in the other Departments and their Tribal Liaisons so they can compile this information in a report for the Governor and Legislature.

**XI. Election of Stewart Advisory Committee Vice Chair**

Director Rupert discussed the need to have a Vice-Chair. She opened up the floor for nominations. The Committee nominated Aletha Tom, Stewart Alumni. Aletha Tom accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. Aletha Tom is the new Vice-Chairwoman of the Stewart Indian Advisory Committee.

**XII. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

The following agenda items for the next meeting: Update on the Legislature, update on the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum, and Powwow Alumni Nominations.

**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, June 7, 2019.

**XIV. Committee Member Comments and Announcements**

Aletha Tom commented about all that Director Rupert had done over the years for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Ms. Tom told a story about one of her jobs years ago. She decided to focus on the positive that she experienced through the years and not the negative. She made a few comments on her history at Stewart. When she came back to Stewart, she met Director Rupert and Chris Gibbons. She thanked Director Rupert for all her hard work with the legislature to further the process at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. Director Rupert commented about her vision for Stewart in the future. She thanked Ms. Tom for her kind words.

**XV. Final Public Comment**

There were no final public comments.

**XVI. Adjournment**

**Meg McDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rachel Delovio. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26a.m.**