NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 30, 2018
Videoconference Sites: Nevada State Capitol, Carson City and Grant Sawyer Building, Las Vegas, NV

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<th>Board Member</th>
<th>Seat Filled</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
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<td>Richard Arnold, Chairman</td>
<td>Native American Representative</td>
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<td>Kostan Lathouris, Vice-Chair</td>
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<td>Marla Williams</td>
<td>Native American Representative</td>
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<td>Kelly Krolicki</td>
<td>General Public Representative</td>
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<td>Richard Snyder</td>
<td>General Public Representative</td>
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NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Stewart Indian School; and Sari Nichols, Program Officer I

Others Present: Laurie Jackson, Social Services Chief, Division of Child and Family Services; Fran Maldonado, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Specialist, Division of Child and Family Services; Tina Glazier Uchytil, Tribal Member, and Sean Uchytil, Walker River Paiute Tribe Intern

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

The meeting convened at 8:04am. The Executive Director took roll, determining a quorum of four Commissioners present.

II. Invocation

Commissioner Snyder provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

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

IV. Initial Public Comment

There were no initial public comments at the meeting.

V. Approval of February 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Snyder made a motion to approve the February 22, 2018 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

VI. Chairman and Commissioner Announcements/Reports

Commissioner Krolicki announced that she obtained her Cherokee Nation photo identification card in Folsom, California recently. She shared that there are 300,000 Cherokee members and many live in
the Las Vegas area. Commissioner Krolicki is interested in facilitating the Cherokee Nation’s visit to Nevada and Ms. Rupert suggested having a meeting at the Las Vegas Indian Center and Chairman Arnold suggested that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe would be good venues for Cherokee members to meet. Commissioner Krolicki also shared that the Flying Ranch, a 3,000 acre property located in the Black Rock Desert, is interested in reaching out to Nevada’s Native American communities by offering walking tours and overnight stays.

Commissioner Williams commented that she had attended a presentation called, “Indigenous Spirit on Fire, Spirituality, and Activism at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) on April 10, 2018. Michon Eben, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Jolie Varela, Indigenous Women Hike, Pawn Douglas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, and Chase Iron Eyes, Lakota Law Project, lectured on the contemporary Native American perspective on how to honor and respect native lands.

Commissioner Lathouris inquired about the process the NIC uses for submitting bill draft requests (BDRs). Executive Director Rupert explained that the Governor’s Finance Office provides agencies a timeline to follow. The process begins with submitting bill draft concepts to the Governor’s Office. Once the Governor’s Office reviews each agency’s concepts, agencies are informed which concepts are to be entered into the State budget system by June 8, 2018. Those bill draft requests will then be drafted, returned to the agency for revisions if necessary, and then they will move forward to the Legislature. Commissioner Lathouris inquired if the NIC receives a certain number of bills that can be submitted. Executive Director Rupert explained that the NIC does not receive a certain number of bills, but that the Governor’s Office decides which of his 104 bills will move forward to become bill draft requests.

Commissioner Williams commented that the Commission should have input into the bill draft requests before they are submitted. Chairman Arnold suggested that prior to the next submission of bill draft requests, that a reminder go out to the tribes to solicit any comments or suggestions on possible legislative changes. This would also give tribes an opportunity to make the Commission aware of any issues that the NIC may be unaware of. The Executive Director explained that what she has before the Commission are “concepts” and are not final submissions. She is asking the Commission for their input on these “concepts.”

VII. Nevada Indian Commission Reports

A. Executive Director Report as Submitted by Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission. In summary:

The Nevada Indian Commission will be submitting two Capital Improvement Project (CIP) requests:

1) Although $1.2 million was awarded to re-roof the Old Gym, the NIC is requesting that the State of Nevada complete the rehabilitation of the Old Gym in its entirety. It is important for alumni and the NIC to see Stewart Indian School’s Hall of Fame athletes represented inside the Gym again.

2) The NIC is requesting rehabilitation of Building #19 (former bakery/post office) to 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. Also, Museum Director Bobbi Rahder has been consulting with the Stewart Facility’s Buildings and
Grounds Supervisor about getting estimates for asbestos removal and new doors for the building as well.

The NIC is also submitting two Bill Draft Requests (BDRs):

1) For statute language to be written for the creation of the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum;

2) For all future revenues from the use of the campus be credited into the NIC’s Gift Fund and allocated for preservation efforts of Stewart Indian School.

Commissioner Lathouris commented that the bill draft concepts are well written and make sense.

B. Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum Report as Submitted by Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Nevada Indian Commission. In summary:

1. The NIC will be hosting a Blessing Ceremony on July 11, 2018 to honor the alumni and to thank Governor Sandoval and legislative officials for their funding of the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. The Blessing Ceremony is intended to bless the site before construction begins to renovate the previous Stewart Administration Building. The Ceremony will be conducted by spiritual leaders from the Paiute, Washoe, and Western Shoshone Tribes, as these are the first three tribes whose children were sent to attend the Stewart Indian School when it opened in 1890. Chairman Arnold requested that all of Nevada’s Tribes are invited to the Ceremony, not just the Great Basin Tribes.

2. Bid documents went out on May 22, 2018 and construction is likely to begin in July 2018. The Museum Director and Curator have been working with museum design firm Gallagher & Associates in addition to three consultants: Samantha Williams, University of California, Santa Cruz graduate student, and Great Basin Native Artists, Melissa Melero-Moose and Ben Aleck. Ms. Williams is writing her dissertation on the history of the Stewart Indian School, and Ms. Moose and Mr. Aleck both have family that went to the School, so their knowledge is vast. Also, twelve yearbooks have been digitized and photographic copies of the yearbooks will be sold at the upcoming Stewart Father’s Day Powwow. Staff is also working on updating the Stewart Indian School website as well as developing a branding plan. Commissioner Williams asked Ms. Rahder where the funding for the branding will be coming from; will it be part of their budget or will it come from the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA)? Executive Director Rupert commented that the DTCA will guide the NIC through the branding process and will update the Board when the process has begun.

C. Stewart Indian School Living Legacy Related Projects Report as Submitted by Sari Nichols, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission. In summary:

1. The NIC is recruiting for volunteers to paint the interior walls and stenciling “Moccasin Square Garden” on the east wall of the new gym. NIC staff continues to work with Stewart Facility Buildings and Grounds (B&G) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to target buildings for cleanup of items to be thrown away or preserved and inventoried.
The Grounds staff continues to complete projects within the Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Plan and have planted a tree and new flowers near the NIC office.

2. A grant application was submitted to the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP) and it awarded the NIC $79,000 to begin planning for rehabilitation of the Auditorium. In addition, the NIC submitted a grant application to the Nevada Arts Council for $6,500 to go towards funding the 2019 Stewart Father’s Day Powwow.

3. The 2018 Stewart Father’s Day Powwow is coming up quickly and will be held June 15-17, 2018. The Committee has been working on creating a new logo for the Powwow and it will be placed on the new letterhead, on T-shirts, custom made water bottles, and the event programs.

VIII. Miscellaneous Reports

A. Indian Territory Report on Projects and Activities as Submitted by Sari Nichols, Secretary, Indian Territory

Ms. Nichols shared that the Indian Territory has been awarded $20,000 to replace the exhibit in the Reno-Tahoe Airport and that Indian Territory Committee Member John Dayberry won the bid for its new design. Chairman Arnold commented that the Tribes must be involved in this process as well.

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Clarification on New Nevada Wildlife Regulations Passed in SB 511

Commissioner Williams reported that she spoke to the Director of the Department of Wildlife and was told that the process wasn’t any more cumbersome than it used to be.

B. Approve Recommendation to Governor Sandoval on Candidates for the Board of Museums and History and the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation

In follow up to the last meeting, the Executive Director explained that there were questions about whether one or two persons would serve as both positions on the Board of Museums and History and the Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation. The Governor’s Office clarified that it would be one person. The Executive Director explained that the Governor’s Office requested three candidates be submitted to him for his consideration. The NIC received three candidates to submit as requested.

Commissioner Williams stated that the legislation didn’t call for three names, but that the NIC should make a recommendation of one person. Chairman Arnold asked for the Executive Director to comment. The Executive Director explained that in the past the process was to submit three candidates as requested by the Governor’s Office. Commissioner Snyder clarified that the Governor, the person making the appointment requested three names. Executive Director Rupert responded that this was the request of the Governor’s Office.

Commissioner Williams disclosed that she works for Strategies 360, a public relations firm and that the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is a client. She worked on this legislation during the last
legislative session. She stated that at the last meeting, the NIC’s Attorney General had said there was not a conflict of interest and that she could vote.

**Commissioner Williams made a motion to recommend Michon Eben as the candidate to submit to the Governor’s Office, along with a list of the other candidates, Commissioner Krolicki seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.**

**X. New Business**

**A. Election of Vice-Chairman for the Nevada Indian Commission Board**

Chairman Arnold stated that there is a vacancy on the Board for Vice-Chair and asked for nominations. Commissioner Snyder asked if past Vice-Chairmen have been historically from northern or southern Nevada and Ms. Rupert stated that usually Vice-Chairs are local. The two previous Vice-Chairmen have been from Sparks and Fallon, NV respectively.

**Commissioner Krolicki made a motion to nominate Kostan Lathouris for Vice-Chair and Commissioner Williams seconded. Commissioner Lathouris accepted and the motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.**

**B. Overview and Approval of NIC Internal Controls Policy**

Executive Director Rupert reported that this document required revising due to the addition of new positions as well as updates to employee duties. Ms. Nichols commented that the biggest change has been updating the Information Technology process; for instance, the NIC now has a server for backing up documents. She also explained that the agency self-assessment is completed annually.

Chairman Arnold commented that the NIC needs to be in compliance and transparent with State of Nevada rules and therefore, the Internal Controls document should be evaluated annually. Commissioner Williams suggested that a provision should be added to the Internal Controls to have the Executive Director report to the Board after the annual review.

**Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve the NIC’s Internal Controls Policy with the addition of the Executive Director conducting an annual review and reporting to the Board, and Commissioner Krolicki seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.**

**C. Approval of Terri McBride Appointment of Representative Form to the Stewart Advisory Committee**

Commissioner Williams asked how many terms Ms. McBride has served. That information was not readily available. Chairman Arnold suggested that the form be updated to reflect the number of each member’s terms.

**Commissioner Williams made a motion to approve Terri McBride’s Appointment of Representative Form and Commissioner Snyder seconded. Motion carried with a vote of 5 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.**
XI. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Commissioner Williams is concerned that state agencies still don’t understand how to Appropriately hold consultation with Nevada tribes. She would like to discuss options on how to provide this information to Executive Branch agencies. Just setting a meeting is not tribal consultation. She would like the NIC to reinforce that Executive Branch agencies understand how to properly do tribal consultation. Although the NIC is a resource for all State of Nevada agencies, the NIC cannot be used for tribal consultation. She also requested the Clear Creek Trails be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Snyder left the meeting at 9:41am.

Chairman Arnold mentioned that this may be a good topic to get out to the tribes; that the NIC does not supplant tribal consultation. Consultation may be different among tribes. He also mentioned that the Executive Director should research whether other commissions have by-laws that govern them. Commissioner Lathouris pointed out that the NIC has regulations. Chairman Arnold asked that the Executive Director work with agency Attorney General on this topic.

Commissioner Lathouris commented that federal agencies are disposing of federal land, and it would be worth looking into how we can ensure that neighboring tribes be considered for the transfer of those lands into trust for the tribes. This could be a future agenda item.

Commissioner Lathouris asked about the NIC’s communication with the Tribes. The NIC owns several listserves and the Executive Director participates in the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) quarterly meetings. If there is an issue that needs to be handled right away, she calls the tribal chairmen directly. The Executive Director also visits the tribal communities annually and speaks to them about their state government relationships and how the NIC can be helpful to them. The Commission also coordinates the Tribal Legislative Forum and the Nevada Tribes Legislative Day. This year’s tribal visits are being scheduled for late August and early September.

XII. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Board Meeting

Executive Director Rupert suggested holding the next meeting in Las Vegas on August 28, 2018 at the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe office.

XIII. Final Public Comment

Chairman Arnold brought a framed photo of the Stewart Auditorium along with a roof tin. It was gifted to him by a friend and the Chairman is donating it to the Stewart Indian School Museum and Cultural Center.

XIV. Adjournment

Commissioner Krolicki motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.
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 August 28, 2018.

Certified by:

[Signature]

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission