

**NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION  
STEWART ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

***June 1, 2018 - 9:00am***

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	<b>x</b>	
Betty Badgett, Vice-Chairwoman	State Buildings and Grounds Division	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Kristen Brown	State Historic Preservation Office	<b>x</b>	
Skip Canfield	NV Division of State Lands		<b>x</b>
Rachel Delovio	Nevada State Museum	<b>x</b>	
Meg McDonald	Knowledge of School	<b>x</b>	
Max Symonds	Knowledge of School	<b>x</b>	
Terri McBride	Knowledge of School	<b>x</b>	

NIC Staff Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director; Sari Nichols, Program Officer I; Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III; Bobbi Rahder, Museum Director, Stewart Indian School Cultural Center;

Others Present: Ron Bodnar, Stewart Facility Supervisor, State Buildings and Grounds; Gregory Smoak, Director, American West Center, University of Utah; Amanda Fountain-Scheuerman, Principal Researcher, American West Center, University of Utah; Janice Stump and Linda Eben Jones, Stewart Indian School Alumni

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chairman Sampson called the meeting to order at 9:04am and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

**II. Invocation**

Chairman Sampson provided the invocation.

**III. Initial Public Comment**

No initial public comments were made.

**IV. Approval of April 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

**Ms. Symonds made a motion to approve the April 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Ms. Delovio. The motion carried.**

**V. Approval of Stewart Advisory Committee Appointment of Representative Forms**

No Appointment of Representative forms were submitted for approval.

## **VI. Update on Status of National Historic Landmark Nomination Application**

Gregory Smoak and Amanda Fountain-Scheuerman, Director and Graduate Research Assistant respectively, of the American West Center at the University of Utah updated the Committee on the status of the National Historic Landmark Nomination Application by distributing copies of a memo he sent to Ms. Rupert. In summary:

- A designation of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) differs from a National Register of Historic Places designation in that the property must be identified as significant at the national level. Nominations are tied to theme studies and none are focused on boarding schools, so the Stewart Indian School is in a good position for the application to be approved. There are only two non-reservation boarding schools currently designated as National Historic Landmarks – Carlisle Indian Industrial School and 12 buildings on the Haskell Indian Nations University campus. The American West Center will consult with the National Parks Service requesting that the 1968 end date of Stewart Indian School’s Period of Significance be extended to 1980. The year 1968 was initially chosen to meet the 50 year criteria for designating historic properties, but the American West Center will request the cut-off date be extended to 1980 to allow more buildings to be considered contributing structures.
- Executive Director Rupert mentioned that Samantha Williams, Ph.D. candidate from the University of California, Santa Cruz, is writing her dissertation on the history of the Stewart Indian School and has been sharing information and documents with the American West Center. Ms. Fountain-Scheuerman stated that she has all of the research on a database and will pass the information on to the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum after the NHL application has been submitted.
- The Application itself is very large and must include the following documentation: a physical description of the property, descriptions of all of the buildings, a statement of historical significance, a narrative, bibliography, maps, and as many photographs as possible. Mr. Smoak said it is important to remember that while an NHL designation opens up doors for grant opportunities, it doesn’t offer protection or state that the property *must* be preserved.
- Executive Director Rupert thanked Mr. Smoak and Ms. Fountain-Scheuerman for their work on this extensive project. Mr. Smoak stated that after the application has been submitted, it will get reviewed and then kicked back for revisions. Once the Nomination is approved by the National Parks Service, it will be forwarded to Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Department of the Interior, for signature. Mr. Smoak assured the Committee that he intends to stay with this project to the very end to make sure it is successful.

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

- A. 2016 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation (CCCHP) Grant Award - Ms. Rupert reported that the State Public Works Division (SPWD) has policies in which non-State funds must be utilized prior to other funding for Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs). Therefore, the SPWD must obtain an invoice from the contractor and forward it to the NIC in order for the \$147,000 grant to be reimbursed from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
- B. 2018 Commission for Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Grant (CCCHP) Submittal Ms. Rupert reported that she attended the CCCHP meeting in April, and is pleased to announce that the Commission was awarded \$79,000 for planning documents to be completed for the

Auditorium. The City of Carson City has already expressed interest in using the Auditorium for events, plays and other types of performances.

### **VIII. Update on Stewart Indian School Landscape Preservation Project**

Director Rupert reported that State Buildings and Grounds staff has been “beautifying the campus” to include cleaning up some of the buildings and adding fresh paint. On the south side of the NIC building, new flowers have been planted and the landscaping has been improved. If the campus grounds stay cleaned up with green grass and beautiful trees, perhaps people’s perceptions will change and will be more respectful of the campus.

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

Museum Director Rahder reported that she and Curator Chris Ann Gibbons have been working on the following projects:

- A meeting was held with the design team Gallagher and Associates staff, the Cultural Center’s three consultants, and Stewart alumni for the first exhibit design workshop on April 9, 2018;
- Statute language is being written to create the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum in addition to requesting funds for two new positions and a museum store during the next legislative session;
- The Stewart Indian School Alumni Recognition Reception on Thursday, June 14, 2018 will be held at the Plaza Hotel and Events Center. In addition, Ms. Rahder and Ms. Gibbons will have a booth during the Stewart Father’s Day Powwow to share the new exhibit design with alumni and attendees alike;
- A Blessing Ceremony of the Cultural Center will be held on July 11, 2018. The event is intended to bless the site before construction begins to renovate the previous Stewart Administration Building into the new Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum. 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;
- Cultural Center staff is also collaborating with the Nevada State Museum on the Battle Born Hall exhibit as well as a World War I project to be completed in November of this year. And finally, the Heard Museum in Phoenix, AZ is requesting Stewart Indian School items on loan for their exhibit, “The Boarding School Experience.”

### **X. Planning for the 2018 Stewart Father’s Day Powwow**

Ms. Rupert shared that the Powwow will be held on June 15-17, 2018 this year. The Powwow Committee has secured five taco vendors and 24 arts & crafts vendors for the three-day event. In addition to selling Powwow T-shirts, custom made water bottles with the new Stewart Father’s Day Powwow logo will also be sold. Also new this year, the Committee decided on having a media section to better educate photographers about proper etiquette during the Powwow. The late Gayle Johnson had been in charge of dancer registration for many years and the NIC is going to honor her with a special song. Lastly, there will be a first aid tent this year with three EMTs on the campus during the entirety of the event.

Ms. Eben Jones asked to use the north lawn of the NIC to hold an all class alumni bar-b-que on Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 12:00-2:00pm. Sherry will add this information in the Schedule of Events in the event program.

#### **XI. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Approval of the June 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes and updates on the Master Plan, the National Historic Landmark nomination, a report on the Cultural Center’s Blessing Ceremony and other Cultural Center updates, and a report on the success of this year’s Powwow.

#### **XII. Scheduling and Location of Next Meeting**

The next Stewart Advisory Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, August 3, 2018.

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

Ms. Brown asked whether the Commission will have a float at this year’s Nevada Day Parade and Ms. Rupert stated that the NIC will be unable to as the agency has many commitments in the coming months, such as planning for this year’s American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and preparing for the 2019 Legislative Session.

At the end of August, the NIC will meet with the State Public Works Board (SPWB), to learn if it has approved the Commission’s CIP requests of completing the Old Gym and renovating Building #19 for Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Museum staff to use for collections storage.

Ms. Rupert reported that the Governor’s Office is requesting that Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) be submitted to the Budget Division by August 31, 2018. The BDRs that the NIC will be requesting are:

- 1) The addition of Statute Language for the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center; and
- 2) A requirement to have all revenues generated by use of Stewart land to be utilized for the preservation of the Stewart Indian School.

Ms. Rupert stated that she just received the Master Plan electronically from H&K Architects and that Governor Sandoval would like a presentation on the Master Plan before he leaves office.

#### **XIV. Final Public Comment**

Ms. McBride is inviting the NIC to give a presentation on the Master Plan at the Carson City Cultural Commission’s meeting in early July or September 2018. As Chair, Ms. McBride provides an annual report on Arts and Culture to the Board of Supervisors. She went on to say that Mayor Bob Crowell recently asked her for more information on the Stewart Facility and its activities, so a presentation would be ideal.

#### **XV. Adjournment**

**Ms. McBride made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Symonds seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:22am.**