

Nevada's Indian Territory
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes
Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 34 Reservation Rd. Reno, NV

Present: Sherry L. Rupert, Chairperson, Nevada's Indian Territory and Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission; Chris Ann Gibbons, Secretary/Treasurer, Nevada's Indian Territory and Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Scott Carey, Project Manager, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA); Christian Passink, Rural Programs Officer, Nevada Division of Tourism; Michon R. Eben, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and Vice-Chairwoman, Indian Territory; Rob Beltramo, Tribal Planner, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Larry Burton, Photographer; Ben Aleck, Great Basin Native Artists; Melissa Melero, Great Basin Native Artists

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - A. Sherry Rupert called the meeting to order and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

- II. Approval of July 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes
 - A. With no changes made, Scott Carey motioned to approve the July 15, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Rob Beltramo. Motion carried.

- III. Comments by Chairperson - Sherry L. Rupert, Chairperson, Nevada's Indian Territory
 - A. NATIVE Act Update – Sherry reported the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act or NATIVE Act was introduced in the Senate in June, 2015. Sherry said this is bi-partisan legislation, co-sponsored by 4 Democrats and 4 Republicans which includes Senator Dean Heller from Nevada. The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) is now waiting for a report on the bill to be released on the Senate side and for a hearing date to be set for the bill to be heard on the House side.
 - B. Report on American Indian Tourism Conference, Ignacio, CO – September 13-17, 2015 – Sherry reported that Territory members attended the 17th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) in Ignacio, Colorado. Sherry said the Conference is always a great networking tool and included mobile workshops to Mesa Verde National Park and Chimney Rock National Monument. Also, Scott Carey (formally of the Nevada Division of Tourism) and Joel Dunn from the Carson City Visitors Bureau spoke at a session entitled “Partnering with Local, State & National Tourism Organizations.” In addition, Sherry said she gave a Keynote Address on the NATIVE Act legislation. Michon Eben added that she along with Scott Carey and Chris Ann Gibbons met with the staff from the Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum to talk about museum development. Also, Chris added it was a highlight to have both Joe Garcia and Ben Nighthorse Campbell speak at the conference. Sherry said the AITC Planning Committee is already working on securing speakers for next year's conference which will be held in Tulalip, Washington.
 - C. Get signed up for NativeAmerica.Travel – Sherry reported that AIANTA launched NativeAmerica.Travel at the AITC in Ignacio, Colorado. Sherry said the site connects travelers directly to tribes with information on history, culture, recreation, museums, lodging and this along with photographs invite travelers to explore Indian Country. Sherry also said tribes can have a profile on the site even if they do not have tribal tourism related attractions or destinations. Chris added that information on how to contribute information to the site was

sent out to tribes with existing tourism related destinations including the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Washoe Tribe and the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. Chris said she would follow-up with those who have not contributed information for the site.

- D. Indian Arts and Crafts Board – Sherry said that Meredith Stanton from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board requested a letter of support from the Indian Territory to help them enforce the Indian Arts and Crafts Act. Sherry read the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 to the Territory and said the letter is in response to an artist in Santa Fe who claims to be Paiute and Shoshone, but is not. The case is going to court. Sherry read the support letter to the Territory and asked for a motion to approve the letter. **Michon Eben motioned to approve the support letter, seconded by Larry Burton. Motion carried.**

IV. Treasurer Report

- A. Chris Ann Gibbons reported the Territory checking account has a current balance of \$9,801.05. Chris stated that since the last meeting, transactions focused mainly on expenses related to the AITC, spending out FY15 Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT) Marketing Grants and the Territory purchased a table at the 2015 American Indian Achievement Awards Banquet and Silent Auction.
- B. The Territory has received the following FY16, 2nd Cycle NCOT Marketing Grants: Indian Territory website maintenance \$4,800, 2016 Stewart Father’s Day Powwow \$2,000, 2016 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference \$7,200 and Indian Territory promotional items \$4,800. Chris also said the grant submission for the Stewart Indian School Marketing Portfolio was denied due to limited availability of funding.

V. Nevada Commission on Tourism Update – Christian Passink, Rural Programs Manager

- A. Christian Passink reported the Governor’s Global Tourism Summit (formerly known as the Governor’s Conference on Tourism) was held November 16-17, 2015 at the Hilton Lake Las Vegas. Christian said speakers included Chris Thompson from Brand USA, Kelly Craighead from the U.S. Office of Travel and Tourism and both Lt. Governor Mark Hutchinson and Governor Brian Sandoval. Also, a Nevada Marketplace was held where Nevada travel suppliers met one on one with international travel agents, wholesale partners and airline representatives. Lastly, there were familiarization tours held for the International representatives. Christian noted the Summit will be held in Reno next year. Chris added that she enjoyed the session which included reps from the Nevada Division of Tourism’s International Offices.
- B. Christian shared that Chris sat in on the last Territory Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and that all of the Territories were present at the meeting. At the meeting, TAC reviewed and approved the FY16, second cycle NCOT Marketing Grants. In this grant cycle, Christian said \$665,000 was requested and \$294,000 was available to award. The grants were finalized after approval from the NCOT Board at their December 9, 2015 meeting, and grant approval/denial letters were sent out to those who submitted grants. Sherry asked Michon to attend the next TAC meeting with her as she would like Michon to represent the Territory at the TAC meetings when she is unable to attend.
- C. Christian reminded the Territory the FY16 Projects Related to Tourism Grants will be due on January 15, 2016 and there is \$200,000 available to award. Christian said

typically, this grant program funds projects in the \$10,000 range and is available every two years.

- D. Christian also reminded the Territory to give the marketing grant program credit on the Indian Territory website. Christian said this issue was brought to his attention by one of the Commissioners at the last NCOT Board Meeting.
- E. Christian said he will be attending ITB Berlin and a Visit USA Workshop. Also, the 2016 Rural Roundup will be held April 13-15, 2016 in Laughlin, Nevada and next year it will be held in Elko at their new convention center. Christian also noted there is no bus this year to/from the Roundup. In May, Christian said he will be going on a European sales mission that will include Germany, Sweden and France and noted there are new Stockholm to Vegas and Cologne to Vegas direct flights. Lastly, Christian said he will be attending IPW in New Orleans in June.
- F. Sherry added that Ralph Burns is in the new Travel Nevada winter marketing campaign.

VI. Discussion on Planning for the 2016 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, April 26-28, 2016 – Ely, NV

- A. Review of 2015 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference Evaluations - Sherry shared the evaluations with the Territory. Suggestions for conference topics included sources of funding, tourism examples from tribes, marketing and planning for tourism. Sherry added that possible topics could also include capacity building (which includes grants), technical assistance, the NATIVE Act, NativeAmerica.Travel, authenticity of American Indian arts and crafts, cultural centers and itineraries. In addition, the Keynote address could be on Cultural Tourism.
- B. Possible Theme – “Building Tourism Capacity” or “Building for Our Future” were themes suggested and discussed by the Territory.
- C. Possible Workshop/Speakers - Possible speakers included representatives from the Nevada Division of Museums and History, Nevada Division of Tourism, Indian Arts and Crafts Board, Department of Commerce and the US Department of Transportation.
- D. Host Tribe Expectations – Sherry said a meeting will be set up with the Ely Shoshone Tribe after the first of the year to discuss host tribe expectations.
- E. Save the Date –Sherry said she would like to get the sponsorship letters, funding proposal to AIANTA and speaker requests out early next year. Sherry also said we will begin working with Bruce Rettig from Charter Advertising on the design of conference materials.

VII. Indian Territory Projects

- A. Indian Territory Photo Library (Southern Nevada) - Complete
- B. Stewart Website Upgrade – Complete
- C. Revision of Territory Flickr Page – Chris stated she will begin updating the Territory Flickr page as soon as possible.
- D. Nevada’s Indian Territory Profile Sheet – Sherry stated the Territory will begin working on the creation of a profile sheet as soon as possible.

VIII. Territory/Tribal Updates

- A. Michon Eben from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported that UNR Special Collections will be displaying “This is not your Land” the Dan sister’s collection in spring 2016. Also, the next Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Craft Fair will be held December 18-19th at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Gym and there will be a New Year’s Eve Powwow held at the Colony.
- B. Rob Beltramo from the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California reported the Tribe’s new travel plaza will have three fueling stations for big rigs, five fueling stations for vehicles, will open in mid-January, create 20-25 jobs and a gaming component will be added. Also, USDA will be funding upcoming IDRS Workshops in both the Woodfords and Stewart communities.
- C. Melissa Melero from the Great Basin Native Artisans reported the group has show’s opening soon at the Sparks Museum and Carson City Community Center. Also, the group continues to recruit artists. Ben Aleck added the group has a good relationship with the Maidu Cultural Center which has opened its doors to the Great Basin Artists.
- D. Sherry mentioned the Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit will be held March 1-2nd at Stewart Gym and March 3rd there will be a field trip to the Sweet Water range. Also, the Summit will host a cultural night and Sherry invited the Great Basin Native Artists to attend.
- E. Larry Burton reported he will be attending the Shooting the West Conference in April and would like to take Indian Territory brochures with him to give out.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Indian Territory Projects
- B. Planning for the 2016 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference

X. Meeting Date and Location of Next Indian Territory Meeting

- A. Sherry said the next Indian Territory meeting will be held Wednesday, January 20, 2015 from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Nevada Indian Commission.

XI. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am.