

Nevada's Indian Territory  
Wednesday, February 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes  
Pyramid Lake Museum & Visitors Center, Nixon, 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 Curator, Nevada Indian Commission; Larry Burton, Photographer; Kari Frilot, Manager, Sales and Industry Partners, Nevada Division of Tourism; Greg Weyland, Director, Washoe Tribal Gaming Commission, Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California; Michon Eben, Cultural Resource Program/Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Reno Sparks Indian Colony and Vice-Chairperson, Nevada's Indian Territory; Billie Jean Guerrero, Director, Pyramid Lake Museum and Visitors Center; Ben Aleck, Great Basin Native Artists; Michelle Mix, Business Assistant, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Debra Harry, Tribal Business Officer, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Sean McConville, Program Officer, Nevada Indian Commission; Pat Atkinson, Folklife Program Coordinator, Nevada Arts Council; Jeanette Allen, Board Member, Pyramid Lake Museum & Visitors Center; Jackie Cawelti, Museum Attendant, Pyramid Lake Museum & Visitors Center

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - A. Sherry Rupert called the meeting to order at 10:00am and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
  
- II. Approval of January 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes
  - A. The following change was made under Item IX., letter D. "Debra Harry added that she is on the board for Nevada Humanities and that grants are available for Humanities related activities." **Greg Weyland motioned to approve the January 18, 2017 meeting minutes with the one change, seconded by Pat Atkinson. Motion carried.**
  
- III. Comments by Chairperson - Sherry L. Rupert, Chairperson, Nevada's Indian Territory
  - A. Sherry reported the 2017 Nevada Legislative Session commenced on Monday, February 6, 2017 and on February 11<sup>th</sup> the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) budgets will be heard by the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittees on General Government.
  - B. The NIC has submitted a 2017 Capital Improvement Projects request for construction on buildings #1 and #2 (future Stewart Indian School Cultural Center and Welcome Center) as well as museum exhibit development in the amount of \$4,655,168.00. This project was 1<sup>st</sup> on the historic preservation capital construction recommendation list.
  - C. Sherry let the Territory know that Senate Bill (SB) 105 is proposing that Columbus Day be replaced by Indigenous Peoples Day as a State Holiday. Sherry said that approximately a dozen people testified in support of the bill at its first hearing and there was some opposition from a Southern Nevada Senator who asked if other states have passed a similar bill. The bill did pass out of committee and will next be heard on the Senate Floor on February 14, 2017.
  - D. The 2017 Nevada Tribal Legislative Day will also be held on February 14, 2017 and the agenda includes a guided tour of the Stewart Indian School. Also, tribal elders will provide invocations at the Senate and Assembly Floor Sessions in the Legislative building and speakers in room 3100 will include Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal Chairman Vincent Hawley.

- E. The NIC has one bill in this session. SB 83 is meant to expand the purpose and powers of the NIC. If enacted, the legislation would broaden assistance by facilitating and/or enhancing government to government relations and allow the NIC to become a clearinghouse for state resources on tribal matters.
  - F. Sherry also shared with the Territory that a bill draft request is being introduced by Assemblyman Kramer that would affect AB15, a bill that was passed during the last legislative session. AB 15 authorized 2 parcels of state land to be sold in the Clear Creek area in Carson City and the profits will benefit the preservation of the Stewart Indian School. The proposed legislation would only give Stewart one half of the profits and the other half would go towards road maintenance in the area. Sherry said the language of the bill has not yet been released, and that the NIC will make a formal stance once the bill can be reviewed.
  - G. Sherry passed out a copy of the first issue of the First Nations Focus publication. The publication is available as an insert in various Sierra Nevada Media Group newspapers including the Nevada Appeal and will be distributed to Nevada tribes. Sherry said the publication will be a great outreach tool to both native and non-natives and will give tribes a chance to share what they want to share about their culture.
- IV. Treasurer Report – Chris Ann Gibbons, Secretary/Treasurer, Nevada’s Indian Territory
- A. Chris reported the Territory checking account has a current balance of \$6,446.33. Also, the FY17 Indian Territory Administrative Grant has a current balance of \$2,414.14. Since the last meeting, the Territory has purchased promotional items through a Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grant. Chris said the remainder of the funding will be used to send Territory members to the Rural Roundup and fund 10 registration scholarships for the upcoming Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference.
  - B. Chris said the Territory has also received the following 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grants: Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference - \$7,000, Indian Territory website maintenance - \$4,800, Indian Territory promotional items - \$4,500 and 2017 Stewart Father’s Day Powwow \$1,500.
- V. Nevada Division of Tourism Update – Kari Frilot, Manager, Sales and Industry Partners, Nevada Division of Tourism
- A. Kari Frilot reported Go West, a tour operator/supplier trade show that includes 13 western states will be held at the Atlantis in Reno February 20-23, 2017. Over 600 people will be attending 5 familiarization tours that will include over 93 International tour operators. Sherry added that Ben Rupert will be a tour guide for the February 23<sup>rd</sup> familiarization tour that will include Pyramid Lake and the Stewart Indian School.
  - B. Kari said the 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle of the FY18 Nevada Commission on Tourism Marketing Grants will open on February 6, 2017 and close on April 21, 2017.
  - C. The 2017 Rural Roundup will be held at the Elko Convention Center April 26-28, 2017. Kari shared that this year the motor coach from Carson City to Elko and return (with a stop in Reno) will only be \$50 (bus will leave on Wednesday and return on Friday before 5pm) and they will do a 1:1 match for Territory members that will include both a registration (registration fee is \$65) scholarship and the motor coach. Also, speakers will include Roger Brooks, Dan Marriot, Larry Burton and the Territory Chairs including Sherry Rupert. Lastly, a film festival during a lunch will focus on destination commercials (90 seconds or less), the host hotel will be the Red Lion and the website for the Roundup should be launched by the end of February.

- D. Kari handed out a save the date flyer for the 2017 Governor’s Global Tourism Summit and said this year it will be held November 13-14, 2017 in Las Vegas.
- E. Kari also handed out a save the date flyer for the 2017 Tourism Day at the Legislature and said it will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 in room 3100 at the Nevada Legislative Building. Kari also noted that guest speakers will include representatives from the U.S. Travel Association and MGM Resorts International and that this is good networking event with Nevada legislators to discuss tourism on a state and national level.
- F. The new travelnevada.biz site has been launched and does include information on the grant program.

VI. Discussion on Design Elements to be Included in New Indian Territory Exhibit at Reno-Tahoe International Airport

- A. Sherry said at the last Territory meeting, the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority showed Territory members two possible locations for the new Indian Territory exhibit. The first location was near the current exhibit space and the second space was in the current passenger waiting area. The Territory unanimously agreed at the meeting that the second space would be a great location for the new exhibit.
- B. Sherry said it was also discussed at that meeting that the Territory will need to temporarily remove their current exhibit in the Airport so that the Peppermill can complete a remodel of their exhibit. The Peppermill has agreed to pay for the temporary move and the airport has agreed to store the exhibit until the Territory is ready to reinstall. In the long term, the Territory will need to look at relocating the exhibit as the airport is required to add another elevator in the current exhibit location to adhere to ADA requirements, which is why the two spaces have been identified for the new exhibit.
- C. Sherry said at the last meeting it was discussed that the new exhibit should incorporate photographs on multiple television screens, redesigned seating, native artwork, a brochure holder, more display cases and a map on the floor outlining traditional areas. The Territory could also negotiate ad space on the television screens.
- D. Sherry said the next step is to identify an exhibit designer/fabricator and locate funding for a new exhibit. Possible funding sources for the project could include the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS), the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), the Projects Related to Tourism Grant Program and the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation.
- E. It was also mentioned the Territory could put out an RFP requesting bids for the project. Pat Atkinson said she would forward an example of language that could be included in the RFP and also offered that she may be able to loan objects to include in the exhibit.

VII. Planning Discussion for 2017 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference, April 4-6, 2017, Ely, NV

- A. Sherry handed out a copy of the draft mobile workshop itinerary for Territory members to review and comment on. Sherry said the workshop includes visits to the Great Basin National Park, Lehmann Caves, Baker Archaeological site and there will be a welcome reception at Duck Creek that will include stargazing, a presentation by the Ely Shoshone Tribe and possibly an archery shoot.

VIII. Territory/Tribal Updates

- A. Michon Eben from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony reported the tribe is part of the planning team for the One Truckee River Plan. This is collaborative effort to ensure the future health and well-being of the Truckee River by enhancing the water quality and providing safe accessibility to the river and education Michon urged Territory members to complete an online survey community knowledge survey that will aid in developing this phased plan. The survey can be found on [www.onetruckeeriver.org](http://www.onetruckeeriver.org).
- B. Larry Burton reported that his agreement to take photos for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe will be expiring in April and if possible, he would like to renew it. Larry also said he is working on putting together photo workshops and will be a speaker at the upcoming Rural Roundup.
- C. Billie Jean Guerrero from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Museum and Visitors Center reported that she has now been at the Museum for a year and has seen an increase in tour groups visiting the museum. Billie Jean said she has been tracking where visitors come from, which includes exchange students from Germany and groups scheduled through the Northern Nevada International Center. Lastly, Billie Jean said she is working on displays that talk about the 2016 wildfires and 2017 floods that affected the reservation.
- D. Pat Atkinson from the Nevada Arts Council shared information about their grant programs and said they do have funds that can be used for arts based travel, trainings, workshops, digital storytelling and programming.
- E. Debra Harry from the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe reported that due to recent flooding that Pyramid Lake is closed and may not reopen until April 1, 2017. Debra said the Tribe is using all available resources to reopen the lake but right now they are dealing with washed out beaches and roads.
- F. Greg Weyland from the Washoe Tribe reported the Tribe is finalizing a new gaming compact with the State that would allow the Tribe to have all gaming not just slots at their Casino. Also, the Tribe is doing a feasibility study for a developer to build a hotel near the travel plaza and casino that would have 80 to 120 rooms.
- G. Sherry reported the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) has met with the owners of the Western Nevada Futbol Club, a professional soccer team that is interested in rehabilitating the Stewart Track and Field as the practice field for their new team. Also, Management Museum Consultants (MMC) will be coming out to Stewart at the end of February to conduct interviews with stakeholders for the initial Assessment Phase of the Master Plan for the Stewart Facility. In addition, the America West Center at the University of Utah has been hired to write a National Historic Landmark application for the Stewart Indian School, NIC is working on creating an on-line submission forms for school and group tours and the Museum Director position for the NIC will be posted soon and will be an open recruitment.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- A. Planning Discussion for the 2017 Nevada Tribal Tourism Conference.
- B. Update on the American Indian Exhibit at Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Short Term and Long Term Changes Needed.

X. Meeting Date and Location of Next Indian Territory Meeting – March 15, 2017

- A. The Territory discussed a change of date for the next meeting and it was decided the date would be changed to March 17, 2017.
- XI. Adjournment
  - A. Michon Eben motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kari Frilot. Motion carried.
  - B. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.