

Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns
Historic Preservation Division
VIA ZOOM
Minutes
Regular Meeting

August 11, 2021 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Present: McCormick, Altman, McCrary, Kirkland, Wood, Jones, Crews,
Bouzigard

Guests: Black, Winkler

Invocation: Crews

Approval of minutes: Minutes from last meeting approved with name corrections for the tribes being reversed.

Treasurer's Report: After expenditures of approximately \$8,000 for advertising in the magazine, \$7,000 remaining.

Reports from the Tribes

- Lower Muscogee Tribes Videos and photos of the community children participating in cultural activities including gardening with traditional tools, playing stick ball, etc. The community has been hard hit by Covid-19 with multiple deaths. They have applied for CARES money for the community. They have been in talks with PBS and also been contacted about a movie filming in Atlanta that is seeking Native American actors.
- Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees Nothing new to report, everything has been delayed by Covid. Their community has been meeting with the Braves and Kirkland.
- The Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council A busy summer: people from the Red Road to DC stopped by the community, lots of maintenance done on the tribal grounds, etc. They have a motorcycle ride to honor the veterans scheduled for September. The Fall Powwow is scheduled for October 1-2, and they are seeking sponsors for the food trailer. They made presentations at the library, etc., and have been having a very productive summer.

Communications to the Council:

Emails via web site –
McCormick

Telephone calls --
Altman

Wood talked to Kendra Southerland about her purchase of a piece of property and whether anyone wanted to connect with the property about prior inhabitants, etc. Very positive call about wanting to be sure to do the right thing and seeking engagement. Also talked to someone named Sil Sakora about Tolomato. Concerned about historic preservation in the community.

Mail – Bouzigard
Archaeo Notifications
– Altman

Mail from early July: Letter from a concerned citizen about the Frederica development happening there. Lots of archaeological sites including some with burials. The citizen was writing in concern for the site. DNR has reviewed applications for dock construction and she was able to kick those applications up for a review by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Black to report (see attached): The Muscogee Creek Nation filed an official NAGPRA claim for the DNR holdings from Etowah. Probably at least a 3-5 year process. The hope from everyone is that the objects and remains go back to Etowah.

Also, materials eroding out of the bank at Ossabaw. They have put in security cameras, etc. The preference of the council is to put things back as close to where they came from as possible, considering the security issues.

New Business:

- Kirkland/Altman: Gathering of tribes at Ga Southern for curation workshop/training: Georgia Southern will put on a workshop for Council members to learn about curation and also have our business meeting.
- East Coweta High School: Concerned students at ECHS want to present to the council about the culturally inappropriate things done at the school with the mascots called the Indians.
- Schedule
 - Proposal: Meet in person January, March, September and November and then by Zoom the other six meetings.
- Park Passes: Planning to get passes for Council Members to be able to go to Parks to do Council Business.

Old Business

Work with the ATL
Braves
Webpage updates

- Kirkland: Follow up on Braves event.
- Braves
 - Donation: The Braves are planning to donate memorabilia to tribes for display or for auction as fundraisers. From an awareness standpoint, the Braves may host each tribe at a game with publicity and an in-game presentation of the memorabilia items. Each group should respond to Donald with dates and potential arrangements for the donations

- The Braves have reached out the Board of Regents about scanning records. GPB is also interested in meeting about Native American programming.
- Website the template being used has been updated and has to be updated on the work that has been done.
- Native American Heritage Month/Day Proclamation: Seeking to get a proclamation for Native American Heritage Month or Day to put before the Legislature.
- Question about the Challenge Coins and increasing the impact of the coins during the regular legislature or during N Am history month.
- Altman agreed to help with the proclamation.

Announcements:

Royce announced that he checked with the tax collector and that each of the three state tribes (especially if they are 501©3s) should be exempt from ad valorem property taxes. Also, there is potential to recoup taxes paid in the past. According to Code Section 48-5-41.

The NCAI was supposed meet in person in October, but waiting to hear whether it will be virtual or not. Same with the GIC. McCormick is especially interested in getting support for the UGA community policing program with tribal police.

Adjourned:

3:02 PM