



## GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

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Date: February 28, 2024

Time: 1:30pm

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

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### INVOCATION

Led by Royce McCrary

#### **Council Members Present**

Nealie McCormick, Chairman  
Donald Kirkland, Vice Chairman  
Heidi Altman  
Royce McCrary  
Terry Raber  
Paul Brannen  
Rhonda Bennett  
Christian Dane – Program Manager (non-member)

#### **Guests Present**

Joe Gavalis  
Dan Flynn  
Tony Yarbrough  
Debra Martin  
Vonnie McCormick

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on January 31, 2024 were distributed for review. Heidi Altman moved to accept minutes; Terry Raber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### NORTH GEORGIA ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Presentation by Mr. Dan Flynn, Mr. Joe Gavalis, and Mr. Tony Yarbrough on what their task force is doing to educate communities on elder abuse and elders going missing. Specifically, addressed how their efforts can positively impact native communities in Georgia.

### GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PRESENTATION

Ms. Martin shared with the Council how the DBHDD can provide awareness to the AIAN population in Georgia about 988 programming and outreach.



## ELECTIONS

### Chairman

Donald Kirkland nominated Nealie McCormick. Rhonda Bennett seconded.

No other nominations for Chairman. Nealie McCormick elected Council Chairman.

### Vice-Chairman

Terry Raber nominated Donald Kirkland. Heidi Altman seconded.

No other nominations for Vice-Chairman. Donald Kirkland elected Council Vice-Chairman.

Heidi Altman moved to eliminate the secretary and treasurer positions. Terry Raber seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

## TRIBE REPORTS

**Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council:** Provided by Paul Brannen. Spring PowWow is coming up. Still working on expanding their parking lot on Tribal Grounds.

## PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current and potential projects. These include:

- A) Teaching Trunks and 4-H Program
- B) Council skeletal collection transfer
- C) Council records digitization
- D) Jekyll Island Foundation Archaeological Research
- E) DNR State Parks and Historic Sites Potential Project(s)
- F) Stone Mountain Park Native American PowWow and Festival
- G) Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival

## BUSINESS

Terry Raber moved for Council to support 40% of Phase I – Archaeological Research of the Jekyll Island Foundation project focused on processing the archaeological materials, stored at the Antonio J. Waring, Jr. Archaeology Lab at the University of West Georgia, of a Native American Council House excavated at the Horton House Historic Site not to exceed the amount of \$24,999. Heidi Altman seconded.

Motion carried with a vote of yay by six of the seven Council members. Donald Kirkland abstained.

## ADJOURNMENT

Heidi Altman moves to adjourn meeting. Terry Raber seconded. Motion carries unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:44pm.