



GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AMERICAN INDIAN CONCERNS MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 20, 2024

Time: 11:30am

Meeting called to order by: Nealie McCormick

INVOCATION

Led by Royce McCrary

Council Members Present

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

Guests Present

Vonnie McCormick
Jane Suk, EEOC
Kathleen Murphy, Southern Live Oak Wellness
Annemarie Rich, Southern Live Oak Wellness

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the meeting on March 25, 2024, were distributed for review. Royce McCrary moved to accept minutes; Paul Brannen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Jane Suk, State, Local & Tribal Coordinator for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, presented on the commission's mission, jurisdiction, processes, and the laws they enforce related to employment discrimination. She explained how the EEOC investigates charges, offers mediation, and can take legal action if violations are found. She also discussed the EEOC's work with Tribal Employment Rights Offices (TEROs).

Kathleen Murphy and Annemarie Rich from Southern Live Oak Wellness discussed the substance abuse and mental health treatment services they provide, including detox, residential, and outpatient programs. They emphasized their focus on serving Native American communities and offering transportation assistance and family programming.



TRIBE REPORTS

Cherokee of Georgia Tribal Council: Provided by Paul Brannen.

- Shared plans on expanding the parking lot on tribal grounds.
- Provided update on language class progress.
- Tribe is likely to start a heavy machinery training class for tribal members.

Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe: Provided by Chief Vonnie McCormick.

- Shared upcoming events and accomplishments, including youth camp, history seminar, and meeting with U.S. Census representatives.
- Will meet this week with VSU professor, Dr. Fred Knowles, about digitization of tribal records.

Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee: Provided by Co-Chief Rhonda Bennett.

- Shared concerns over a land development over potential burial grounds in North Georgia.
- Discussed starting language program within the tribe.
- Shared plans of commencing a historical project about the gold rush and its impact on the Cherokee people, specifically in North Georgia.

PROJECT REPORTS

Discussion was had on current and potential projects to include:

- A) Jekyll Island Foundation Update
- B) DNR State Parks and Historic Sites Project(s)
- C) UNG Foundation Records Project
- D) Valdosta State Records Project
- E) Rock Eagle Signage project

BUSINESS

Terry Raber moves to approve the proposed contract for the Program Manager position assigned to Christian Dane. Rhonda Bennett seconded. Donald Kirkland abstains. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Terry Raber moved to adjourn meeting. Paul Brannen seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.