

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
February 25, 2010**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Andy Whitener	Treasurer
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary (<i>arrived at 1:46</i>)
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Legal Counsel
Executive Director
Recording Secretary

Kevin Lyon
Ray Peters
Melissa Puhn

Marcella Castro offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:19 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Marcella asked for an update on the elders' bus. She also would like to discuss the UA's and the mental health departmental changes. Charlene would like to discuss a Mental Health personnel issue. These items will be brought up at the end of the day in executive session.

Willow Henry was present to request financial assistance for her group: Native Sisters. She has a group of girls who are learning to pow wow dance. They are hoping to go to a pow wow this weekend at Suquamish but they need money for food. There are six of them planning on going. Melissa Grant will be driving them in the GSA van. Charlene mentioned that she believed that there was money appropriated for them through One Percent, which will be channeled through the MLRC. She also stated that since Willow is part of the Royalty Court, part of her duties is to attend pow wows. Council agreed to cover the gas expenses in the GSA van and the MLRC will cover the \$250 requested.

Andy Whitener moved to approve the February 25th Council agenda. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ray shared that Washington State DNR has forwarded dates for Natural Resources to set up a meeting to discuss the Taylor Settlement. DNR also responded to the cultural tree request. Jack Selvidge found a cultural tree near Quilcene. DNR will look at the tree and come up with a cost. Ray shared that the Potlatch Fund offers scholarships for purchasing cultural trees. Arnold would like to see a plan in place on what will be done with the trees before they are acquired. Ray stated that it is up to Council on what the trees are used for. There has been talk from the community regarding a community welcome pole or a pole for the cemetery. He suggested an ad hoc committee be put together with artists to come up with an idea. Ray suggested that once the tree is secured, putting out a notification to the community to get the artists together to do a cultural community activity and develop some proposals. Council will start the process with DNR to get logs; before anything is done with them a plan needs to be developed by the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the February 11, 2010 Council Minutes. Andy Whitener seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

February 21-24: Reservation Economic Summit 2010, Las Vegas, Pete is attending..

March 1-3: NCAI Executive Winter Session, Washington DC, Arnold and Ray. Ray handed out information packets that he is bringing with him to DC. Ray has been keeping an eye on the weather in DC; he has been working with Juliette Pittman regarding a potentially better time to meet with representatives (*Ray and Arnold will reschedule this trip, due to the weather*).

March 3-6: Tobacco Expo, Las Vegas, NV, Andy and Dave will attend.

March 15-17: National Tribal Gaming/Regulators Conference (NTGC/R) Palm Springs, CA. Charlene, Marcella and Arnold will attend.

March 15-18: Native American Financial Officers Association Conference (NAFOA), New Orleans. Ray, Bobby and Espie will attend.

April 6-9: NIGA, San Diego, CA. Andy and Marcella will attend

May 2-6: 2010 Annual Tribal Self Governance Conference, Scottsdale AZ, Pete, Ray and Deb will attend.

May 1: General Body Meeting, LCCR

May 10-15: NTEC, Albuquerque, NM, Andy, Pete and Dave will attend.

CHAIRMANS UPDATE

Dave provided an update on the whale. The bones are soaking in peroxide and will be for a few months. Ray estimated that the cost is around \$5-\$10,000. At the last Council meeting someone asked about a plan for exhibiting the bones. Ray reported that he has been working with Rhonda about researching organizations that build exhibits. He also would like to look in to having tribal members build it.

Marcella asked about firewood. Ray stated that Manke knows that if they have any extra wood that the tribe would be interested in allowing tribal members to cut it. Dave shared that Manke is selling pallets of wood for \$60/pallet. It comes out to about \$180/cord. The wood is dry and ready to burn and Manke will deliver it. Council likes the idea of buying this wood to stockpile for next winter. Ray will check and see what is available and try and negotiate a better price.

Dave mentioned that IEI ended up paying for the pressure washer and heater that was used for the whale.

Marcella shared that yesterday during the IEI Board Meeting, the option of leasing the two old busses to the casino came up. In the past the casino has mentioned an interest in buying the old busses. Marcella was concerned though, if the busses belong to the youth, what will they use during summer recreation?

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

She suggested trading the two old busses for one new bus. Ray provided a report on the elders' bus; he is working on a plan. He will have an appraiser come in and look at the old busses; then will look in to selling them using those funds to help with the cost of an elders bus. Ray feels that it is economically better to rent a bus for the youth. He would like to look in to a large enough bus for the elders and youth to share, with the elders having priority.

STEVE ROBINSON

Steve Robinson was present to share his candidacy for State Legislature; he is running for the House of Representatives. He is seeking support from Council. There are five other democrats running for this position. The primary will be in August. He assures that he will serve to the best of his ability; Economy, Education and the Environment are his three main topics of concern.

Steve introduced Abbey Ruskey, Executive Director of the Environmental Education Association of Washington. She explained their program mission is to increase support for and improve education for sustainable communities. Abbey is working on partnering with other tribes and seeking financial support.

Dave handed Steve a check for \$1000 in support of his campaign.

TRIBAL GAMING AGENCY & COMMISSION

Desi Smith, Summer Petty, Michael Ulrich, Jeff Peters, Mike Bloomfield, Lorna Gouin, Joanne Decicio and Cal Peters were present.

Desi handed out a breakdown of the gaming commission: outlining who does what including functions and responsibilities of each position. He included as many as possible but the list is not completely inclusive. It shows that there are specific employees who address specific issues.

Arnold inquired about the audit findings at the casino; he thought maybe there has been a lack of education for staff. Desi stated that every year after the external audit report, TGA extensively goes through the report thoroughly. Through the internal audit, external audit and education they take care of findings. Part of TGA responsibility is to make sure that operations understand the regulations.

Joanne made a statement both as TGA Commissioner and Accounts Payable Manager for the government. She stated that anything to do with money and finance should be considered very important and that policies to do with cash or finance need to be followed by all employees in all entities of the Tribe. She continued that she sees a lack of compliance with LCCR and the Government from Council, directors, managers, to subordinate staff. She really would like to see compliancy start with Council and work its way down to staff. She sees many directors and managers of both the LCCR and government that do not take responsibility for making sure their staff is in compliance with Finance. She shared her frustrations with the lack of compliancy she sees with finances, from everyone including LCCR and government. She ended this with stating that it is a struggle to get the necessary documents from various employees and that all employees are getting paid to follow procedures and to keep from having findings and/or fines with for example, the IRS. There needs to be more cooperation with documents Finance requires to avoid having findings. Jeff shared that the managers/directors need to be ahead of their staff with the findings.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

TGA is working on tightening the rules and regulations with the goal of zero findings next year. Joanne warned that Council may have some people coming to them to complain about TGA and Joanne hopes that Council backs TGA and their regulations.

Dave wanted to know how many audit findings were initially found and reported by TGA, and why they were not fixed in the first place. Summer stated that TGA did have the same findings and LCC should have fixed those findings before an outside agency came in. Dave reminded that TGA has the authority to make the casino stay in compliance. Desi stated that TGA will get tougher and LCC will probably respond negatively. Council will fully support TGA. Desi will make sure that casino staff has a better understanding on compliance issues. Council directed Desi and TGA to be tougher on the Casino in regards to compliance issues. Charlene reminded TGA they are the regulators and are to protect the LCCR with compliance from state and federal regulations. Council would like to see zero findings with the next audit.

Charlene asked if Desi would explain to Council Title 31 and FinCEN. Desi explained the requirements with cash handling. If there ever is a question in regards to forged checks, counterfeit money or anything suspicious it is reported to TGA. TGA strives to have a comprehensive cash handling training on the property and training is done for any employee who handles cash at the casino. Charlene recommends having TGA produce a video of their training on Title 31 FinCEN for compliance training for key employees and minimum control standards for cash handling departments. That way each time a new employee comes on they can watch the video/training. Desi would like to see any cash handling employee goes through that training twice a year.

Dave thanked the Tribal Gaming Commission for coming in and told them to be tough and that the findings are unacceptable.

Lorna would like to see the council rep attend their meetings. Arnold stated that Charlene has attended the previous meeting.

Arnold asked Desi to listen to the commissioners.

Cal brought up that in the future if Council has a problem with the happenings at the Casino to get in touch with the Commissioners for immediate communication.

ENROLLMENT

Tammy Ford and Sharon Haensly provided another copy of the draft enrollment code for Councils consideration. Tammy reported that they sent copies of the code to the general body and received six comments. Most of the comments were in regards to decendency. Kevin shared the letter from Will Henderson. That issue cannot be changed with the code but is a constitutional amendment. Tammy will begin a database on descendents. Charlene had questions on page 9, under the drafting comment. She wanted to make sure consideration was given to tribal people who are on the Squaxin Island Tribal lineage, who had not been accounted for in Census or Roblin's, their descendents "would" be able to assert a "right" to become a member if they could validate quantum and the historical connections. Sharon confirmed that page 9 covered that concern.

Charlene Krise moved to approve the enrollment code. Marcella Castro seconded the motion.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Misti asked about the non-disenrollment. She feels that it is not fair to the descendants when there are tribal members enrolled who should not be. Sharon stated that everybody who is a member right now will stay a member and cannot be dis-enrolled even if they are fraudulently enrolled; with the exception of the three pending applications. The three were initially identified by Council. Any future member who is enrolled can always be dis-enrolled at a later date if they were found fraudulent

Motion carried four (4) in favor zero (0) against and one (1) abstained.

There were six who responded to the descendency issue. Legal has prepared a letter responding to them by stating that it would take a constitutional change and made some suggestions on how to handle it. Charlene would like to see where the tribe will be in 5, 10, 15 years with blood lines, her worry is about not having enough blood quantum. She also would like to see how the tribe could handle a larger enrollment.

Kevin thanked Tammy and Sharon and the enrollment committee for their hard work. Several Council members also expressed great gratitude to Tammy and Sharon.

Misti brought up the request from Rose Boggs and Charlene Cooper. They have requested \$2,500 to help them host a memorial dinner for Wilson Blueback. Council agreed to pay the donation now and will be reimbursed from One Percent during the next quarter (*Committee members present: Ray Peters, Charlene Krise, Marcella Castro, Misti Saenz-Garcia and Joe Peters were notified via email*).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Ray reminded Council that Franks Landing is hosting lunch tomorrow at Wa-He-Lut School.

Charlene mentioned the food bank and shared concerns that were relayed to her.

Per Capita date: April 6th; the amount will be \$499 to 1,002 eligible tribal members. Youth's per capita money will go to their trust account.

Softball sponsorship: Taylor Owens is requesting financial help for her fast pitch team. Charlene Krise moved to approve \$250 donation. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

UA Budget: Ray handed out the costs and budget for the UAs. The consultant handling the testing will be less expensive than NWITC doing the tests. The UA system has been in place since 2003 and it was heightened last year. Ray suggested that Council ask if the heightened system has made a difference.

June will be in later today and will bring in a guest from Muckleshoot to discuss the behavioral health model.

PLANNING/DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brian Thompson presented **Resolution #10-29** which authorizes the submission of a grant application to the US Department of Homeland Security under the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program to enhance emergency management programs based on identified need and priorities. Charlene

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Krise moved to approve the resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Esther Fox presented **Resolution #10-30** which authorizes the next round of on-island land purchases. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve the resolution. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Brian provided an update on the assisted living program. He explained the three levels of assisted living: one is center based similar to a nursing home, one is similar to a retirement home where there is support and activities and the third is an on-call basis. Island Enterprises conducted a feasibility study for assisted living. Brian suggested looking at a better way of coordinating the current services that are already in place.

Charlene asked about caregivers living in an elders unit. Brian stated that the policy does allow for a caregiver to live with an elder, but does not allow children. Elders housing is for elders and not youth. Charlene asked about a tribal member who is terminal and the caregivers are the family who are multi generational; some of the caregivers are considered “youth.” She hopes that the housing allows room for multiple care givers.

Arnold would like to even look at Fir Lane as an example and see how they run their programs. Brian reminded that a facility with 24/7 staff is a huge cost. Arnold thought that the model of elder’s houses with caregivers living in might be a better model to follow. Charlene likes the idea of a centralized person who is on-duty to help care for most elders. Most elders only need a little bit of care, so the person would not have to be highly qualified and only just need to be there assisting as needed. Brian would like to look at the services we already offer.

NORTHWEST INDIAN TREATMENT CENTER

June O’Brien introduced Truth Griffith, who is the head of Muckleshoot Behavioral Health Program.

Pete Kruger arrived at 1:46

Per Tribal Council request for information about other tribe’s successful models; June asked Truth to come in to discuss the Muckleshoot Program and offer any insight with developing an integrated program. They average about 200 patients each month. Marcella asked what percentage of their patients are children; Truth stated that 30% of their patients are youth. Marcella shared that Squaxin sees 80% youth in their programs. Muckleshoot integrated their program about five years ago and it has grown with a positive outcome.

Council discussed the transition to an integrated comprehensive program. Marcella feels that there would be a transportation issue if the program was housed at Outpatient. As of now the counselors are within walking distance to the housing and bus stops. Ray stated that Outpatient has the space and there could potentially still be an office located here for a counselor to meet confidentially with someone who cannot make it down to Outpatient. Arnold asked about building a facility for them. Ray stated there are facility funds, mainly for renovation of IHS facilities. Ray emphasized that Muckleshoot started small like Squaxin would, and Muckleshoot has grown to a large program.

Charlene asked about future funding that might be impacted because of the state budget lacking.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ray reminded that he was directed to move forward and to find out more information for Council. Unless Council decides to discontinue, he plans to continue to working on job descriptions and developing the program. Charlene asked if those involved could go visit Muckleshoot to see their programs.

Marcella wanted to see what the current employees could do without a manager; she feels they are adequate to run the program. Ray stated that could be the case to keep the program status quo, but feels that a manager would help the program grow and would administer the integrated program. Whitney stated that, much like the medical providers, the current practitioners need to spend their time seeing patients. The manager will serve as an administrator and let the current counselors do their job and being available to the community directly. Marcella does not see the point in expanding services. Ray assured that this change will better serve tribal members. From an administrative standpoint, there needs to be an administrator who will have the vision to integrate the programs, develop policies and other administrative tasks.

Glen shared that what sells him on the concept is that none of the patients have just one problem. When they come to treatment for help, most have more than one problem. The concept of a focused place where someone can come get an evaluation, all of the right people are there, including mental health, chemical dependency, anger management, etc. The current program is not the best model. A fully integrated treatment plan is worth a lot. He feels the success rate for the patients will be much greater.

The outpatient trailers are a place to start. Perhaps as the program outgrows the trailers, they can look in to grants to expand the building.

Ray stated that as of last Council meeting, Council directed to continue to develop this program. Marcella would like to see the program move up here; she has a concern of how the kids will get down to the Outpatient building. Ray and other staff feel the program would be better if they all are under one roof. Can look in to moving them up here, but the space is down there. There will still be a meeting room up here for the youth. Council gave direction to continue to work and develop options; a job description will be developed for hiring a manger. Council agreed, except Marcella.

Ray assured that by next Council he and Brian will have options for a Natural Resources building.

Misti believes in the “one stop shopping” idea for the behavioral health program but she still has more questions. She would like to see quality workers and has a concern about some current staff.

Dave said go ahead with the planning and report back next meeting.

Vicky Kruger stopped by to discuss the 2012 hosting. She shared that Pendleton is having their annual sale coming up and Vicky would like to start teaching classes for sewing and beading. She would like to access the One Percent funds that have been set aside so she can shop the Pendleton sale. Charlene suggested Vicky set up a proposal to the canoe family to get funding for this.

2012 CANOE PLANNING

Bridget Ray and Brian Thompson were present. Bridget handed out a copy of the Steering Committee by-laws which was modeled around the Heritage Committee by-laws. The steering committee approved

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

by consensus at their last meeting. Bridget shared who serves on the committee. Ray stated that this committee is not the canoe family but merely a committee who will assist with planning, fundraising and organizing the hosting of the 2012 Journey. Andy Whitener moved to approve the Steering Committee by-laws. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Misti absent*).

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Mike Foster Jr. brought in a carved petroglyph he would like to sell to Council. Council decided not to buy it at this time.

SQUAXIN YOUTH COUNCIL

Jaime and Jessica Cruz, Charlene Abramson and Bill Kallapa were present. They were here to get approval for joining UNITY. This program helps youth councils better themselves. The youth council is working on a constitution. Jessica shared the roles of the committee. They participate with the canoe journey, the volunteered with the recent sobriety dinner; they helped out with snowboarding and participated with the music academy. She would like Council to accept their by-laws. Charlene stated that the Youth Council would like to become a “commission” and will come to the next Council meeting outlining their needs. Charlene Abramson presented **Resolution #10-34** which approves the Squaxin Youth Council by-laws and approves the Youth Council to join the UNITY Network which is sponsored by United National Indian Tribal Youth. Charlene Krise moved to approve the resolution. Arnold Cooper seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Marcella absent*).

Jaime stated they would like to hold a mini conference with a dance on March 27th.

Charlene Krise asked if they would do a food drive for the tribal food bank. Charlene Abramson stated that would be included in their bylaws under community service.

Jaime said that they have three note takers so if Council would like to see what their meetings are about they can see their notes. Charlene would like to see them get their picture on the website. They will present at the next meeting their commission ideas and their authority.

LEGAL

Charlene would like to bring up three closed session issues in executive session.

Misti brought up Shaker Church. Arnold stated that last he heard Council has agreed to travel to Yakima to meet with the Bishop. Arnold has tried to get a hold of them but never heard back. He will try again.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.