

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
February 28, 2013**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Andy Whitener	Treasurer
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
Ray Peters	1 st Council Member
Jim Peters	2 nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3 rd Council Member

Legal Counsel

Kevin Lyon

Tribal Administrator

Don Whitener

Recording Secretary

Melissa Puhn

Andy Whitener offered the opening prayer.

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold Cooper move to approve the February 28th Council Agenda. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the February 14, 2013 Council Minutes. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

March 4-7: NCAI (National Congress of American Indians) Winter Session, Washington DC. Ray, Arnold, Jim and Isaac Ackerman (youth) will attend.

March 10-13: Independent Community Bankers Conference, Las Vegas, Ray will attend.

March 11-13: RES (Reservation Economic Summit) 2013, Las Vegas, Pete will attend.

March 12: Tribal/State Dinner, 6-10pm, LCCR. Steve Robinson organizing this event. Jim, Arnold, Charlene will be there.

March 24-27: NIGA (National Indian Gaming Association), Phoenix, AZ. Andy, Charlene and Ray will attend.

March 25-26: Health Care Conference, New Orleans, Kathy will attend.

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April 5: 9th Annual Native Women's Leadership Forum & Enduring Spirit Honoring Luncheon, Swinomish, Charlene will attend.

April 14-18: NTEC (National Tribal Environmental Council), Traverse City, MI, Andy will attend.

April 17-20: NAFOA (Native American Financial Officers Association), Nashville, TN. Ray, Kevin and Espie will attend.

April 21-26: Council Work Session, Tulalip Resort

April 29-May 2: Self- Governance, Anaheim, CA. Ray, Pete and Kathy will attend.

May 4: General Body Meeting, LCC Events Center. Council agreed to purchase three beaded wallets from Virginia Beruman for \$300 to be used as door prizes during General Body.

May 7-9: NAFWS (Native American Fish & Wildlife Society), Scottsdale, AZ. Jim and Pete will attend.

May 13-16: ATNI (Affiliated Tribes of NW Indians) **Mid-Year,** Spokane WA. Andy, Pete and Jim will attend.

TRIBAL CHAIRMAN UPDATE

Council Work Session: April 22-26th at Tulalip Resort. Sunday will be a travel day; Monday through Thursday will be meeting days and travel home on Friday.

Kathy asked for some time at the work session to discuss cemetery planning. Dave would like to schedule the Visioning Session with the enterprises soon also, discuss what the Tribe would like to see in the next 5-10 years. Ray would like at the Government Work Session to have a block of time set aside for Council discussion only; perhaps Monday Morning. Charlene would like to have a discussion on President Obama State of the Union Address and possible impacts to the Tribe. Growth of the tribe needs to be discussed, and how that growth will be accommodated. Andy suggested that each Director needs to have time with Council to share their goals for the future, not just what they're doing now. He would like this work session to be more of a brainstorm / collective idea discussion. Not just a report.

Don shared that he has asked Department Directors to present to Council at their regular meetings periodically; keeping Council updated on their plans. Ray likes the idea of going over departments goals and objectives for the coming year.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Don shared that in April the Shaker Church will have a three day celebration. They will have a re-enactment of John and Mary Slocum at Church Point. They want a canopy and chairs set up. Maintenance will do that and will be charged against their budget the tribe provides. Charlene mentioned the John Slocum exhibit soon to be completed.

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Executive Session regarding personnel matters: Kathy Block presented an RFP for Records Management and Staffing. Coming out of executive session, Council agreed by consensus that she move forward with record management and funding for a Consultant and intern and took no position on staffing. The decision whether whom to hire is a decision for the Executive.

Early Childhood: Sally Brownfield shared her thoughts on early learning and beyond preschool. She has recommendation on what she thinks needs to be done and would like support from Council. She has data from the Child Development Center and the Shelton School District that when Squaxin kids enter the school system, they are 50% less ready than the other children. Squaxin children who go from the CDC to public schools are less prepared and starting behind. Squaxin does not have any type of preschool or parenting skills workshop. There are a lot of Squaxin kids in the community who are not allowed to attend the CDC, which is better than nothing. They cannot attend because their parents are not working or attending school and in order to qualify to the subsidy, the parent must work or attend school. Child development is so critical before the age 7; how can Squaxin support the little kids better?

Arnold suggested that while Council is at their work session to visit the Tulalip Youth Center. Sally will arrange.

Sally handed out a needs list, which includes a comprehensive early learning center. Jim added that the CDC is qualified for daycare, but not education. They have curriculum down there, but its childcare not education.

Jim suggested that a committee could be formed to start the idea of a preschool. Don added that he would like Council to embrace the idea and give Sis authority to start planning and get a committee put together to research this program. Ray suggested that for now; create an ad-hoc to allow for flexibility. Council approved Sis to move forward.

Charlene would like to see Sis apply for grants and also “follow” kids through their life from pregnancy to 6 years old. Council approved.

Sis asked for Council Support to her appointment to the State Board of Education. Council approved.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Elizabeth Egan presented **Resolution #13-11** which authorizes SPIPA to submit a proposal to the US Department of Justice Coordinated Tribal Assistant grant program for the Children’s Justice Act. Ray asked why Squaxin isn’t applying for this grant on its own. Margaret Foley responded and stated that Squaxin currently has a block grant. Block grants are highly competitive and they try to “spread” the money around, since Squaxin already has a block grant for the community center design they shouldn’t apply for another one.

Arnold Cooper moved to approve Resolution #13-11. Ray Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Charlene was out of the room*). Ray would like planning to look in to ICBG on our own without SPIPA.

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Elizabeth presented **Resolution #13-12** that authorizes the NWITC to submit with the Department of HHS a grant proposal for three years to the SAMHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion Peer-to-peer Program. Ray Peters moved to approve Resolution #13-12. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

Elizabeth presented **Resolution #13-13** which authorizes SPIPA to apply for an ICBG that is extremely competitive. This grant will be to provide services to victims of child abuse. Andy Whitener moved to approve Resolution #13-13. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried six (6) in favor and zero (0) against.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES

Mitzie Whitener was present to discuss audio visual improvements in Council Chambers. She received a quote from Flamingo Audio which she handed out. Jim asked about the current equipment and felt that it was not used anyway. He likes the idea of improving the AV equipment in Council Chambers, but would it be used? Mitzie shared that the current equipment is not very usable. The quote she shared is expensive, but would not need to be replaced for a long time. Currently, when Council has a presentation during their meeting, her staff has to bring in equipment. This quote is a result of what would fit Councils needs for the next 10 years.

Arnold brought up his concern that nothing is recorded in Council Chambers. A lot of other tribes and cities record their meetings. The recordings can be kept private and for documentation only; or can be shared on the network for tribal members access only. There are other tribes and agencies that make their meetings available to the community.

Ray asked about other quotes. Mitzie stated Flamingo is the fourth company she has worked with and they have been the easiest to deal with. They offered a quote for free.

Ray brought up the General Body Meetings. He would like control of the microphone during meetings. Mainly so individuals have an opportunity to answer a question without being interrupted by someone else talking. Mitzie shared that right now, the Casino hires a company to operate their AV equipment during meetings at the LCC. They currently have that capability to control the microphone during meetings.

Mitzie shared that she has been asked about offering wireless reservation wide. She looked in to this idea, but before she does much research she wanted to know what Council was trying to accomplish.

Charlene stated the future for the younger generation will be more technology than previous generations; students will have paperless homework. She would like to see Squaxin ready for that. Arnold would like to see the pros and cons of a wireless cloud. Mitzie will do research on that. She added that there are a lot of advantages of the hardwire that is already in place. Wireless technology is different. Wireless speeds are always slower than the fiber that is already in place. All of the houses on the reservation have fiber capability.

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Council would like Mitzie to find other quotes and maybe look at other vendors. Council likes the idea of having a large screen instead of the smaller TVs that are in place.

She is also working with her staff on training employees on equipment.

Mitzie shared that her department provides refurbished computers and laptops to community members. They spend about \$300-\$5000/year on that program. She feels it's a good community service and asked if Council wished they continue. Yes, Council felt she should continue.

Mitzie shared that she might come back to Council to ask for more money to continue providing refurbished computers, and will get another AV quote.

Jeanne Cushman came in to introduce herself as the Tribes contract lobbyist. She briefed on bills and legislation that she is watching.

LEGAL

ADR work-group (inter-tribal disputes) Kevin noted that Jim asked him to bring this back to Councils attention. He has a few additional copies if anyone would like one. Jim would like approval or a decision to let the group involved know what SIT stance is on this topic. Bring this up at the next meeting for discussion and decision.

Kevin presented **Resolution #13-14** which authorizes continuing the contract with the Northwest Intertribal Court System (NICS). This contract has been in place for over 10 years. Kevin discussed corrections. Jim Peters moved to approve the contract resolution. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Health Care Directive Guide: Kevin spoke last session regarding this. Legal is almost complete with the preparation and he will set up a series of seminars for tribal members to attend. Anyone within the membership can receive counseling on advanced directives, including health care decisions, physicians orders, durable power of attorney and will have pamphlets for each. He will connect with the elders next week to set some dates with them. Legal is working on a vulnerable adult piece as well, but is separate.

Gaming Resolution: TGA made some recommendations on small adjustments to the compact and is reflected in **Resolution #13-15**. Andy Whitener moved to approve. Jim Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Dave was out of the room*).

Council went in to Executive Session to discuss the Bank of America (status report); U.S. v. WA Fish Buyers MOU; Skokomish v. Goldmark; other hunting matters and State v. Whitener (state hunting case).

SPIPA Update

Amadeo handed out the sponsorship information and invite to the SPIPA Auction, April 13th.

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LITTLE CREEK CASINO

Michael Starr, Mark West and Erika Thale were present.

Erika shared the apprentice program that is in place at the casino. This program was created to proactively promote career development opportunities and assistance to all Squaxin Tribal member employees, all stages of their employment with Squaxin. She currently has eight tribal members involved. She provides an independent development program and lay out a path, defining benchmark goals and objectives that they are comfortable with reaching.

Jim asked if employees are aware this is going on. Erika stated they are very hands on, and know who the tribal members are. It's brought up during new employee orientation and during the annual evaluation. Michael stated that Erika did a video that discusses the development of tribal members and asking tribal members to express their interest.

They are in the early stages of working with the other entity human resources departments on developing a similar program. They would like to develop a workforce of tribal members who are ready to work in other tribal businesses and government. They are currently working on a press release to share this program. Erika will be the leader and will get the word out. Arnold feels that education to the community is important.

Michael went over the executive summary. Everything Casino related looks good; revenue and expenses are looking good. They continue to receive praises on the food and beverage from the restaurant and banquet guests.

Michael briefed on the upcoming events.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Kelly Croman, Richard Sweeney, Cameron Goodwin and Dave Johns were present.

Kelly introduced Richard Sweeney, who has stepped in as IEI CFO since Lisa Bielski resigned.

Kelly shared that IEU gas decided to brand KTP with Shell. The only visual changes will be a small sign and some logos placed. This will allow for savings on freight charges and pass through. They will have lower credit and debit card processing fees. Hopefully, in less than a year the Shell incentive program will be added.

Kelly also shared that the IEI Board discussed the construction company yesterday. Korsmo is working on a mentorship program and Richard put together an estimate for the program. She wanted to know if this is something that Council wants to continue investing in. Charlene reminded that the program was created so the Tribe could go after Department of Defense contracts with their 8A Status. Council agreed by consensus to dissolve Island Enterprise Construction.

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Kelly brought up the IEI Board Work Session. She suggested mid-May with Council, IEI and LCC.

Cameron shared a quick Skookum Creek Tobacco Update.

Council would like to have a Council Meeting at the Oyster Company soon, this spring sometime.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Jeff Dickison presented the LOTT Contact for renewal. Ray Peters moved to approve the contract. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against (*Dave was out of the room*).

Pacific Salmon Treaty Research: Jeff presented **Resolution# 13-16** which authorizes the proposal for funds from the Pacific Salmon Treaty funds for FY13. Jim Peters moved to approve. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Shellfish Enhancement: Erik Sparkman was present and went over the Shellfish Growers Settlement Enhancement Proposal for 2013.

Jeff reminded that this is a proposal and reminded the expenses are calculated. He welcomes any suggestion or direction. Arnold likes it as long as they're working with Salish on this. Charlene raised concerns on percentages in relationship to department and shellfish harvesters; she would like to see more actual benefit for shellfish harvesters stated in the proposal. She wanted to know the estimation of individual harvesters monthly/yearly take home pay and what are the projections/calculations of how the proposal (NR) will increase the financial gain for Squaxin harvesters. Charlene stated the proposal will only be good as long as the harvest openings and pounds are increased for tribal members and only as long as the financial increases are realized by the Tribe.

Council acknowledged that this is a good draft enhancement program.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUESTS

Joe Seymour shared that he is working with the youth and the Seattle Symphony and would like to host an event here. Joe will lead a sharing of music and stories between the Squaxin drum group and the Seattle Symphony. The first event will be March 18th and invited Council to attend. He is asking for a donation to cover dinner since the Canoe Family does not have any funds. He is asking for \$300 to cover pizza and spaghetti. Council approved the donation. The meeting will be held at the Community Kitchen.

Kim Allen was present with a cemetery question. Her and her siblings have reserved plots in the Squaxin Cemetery. They would like their mother (Skokomish) to be buried there. As the cemetery policy states, she needs to ask the permission of Council to include their mother. Council approved.

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Don brought up the Cemetery Policy, and how it states now, if someone is not tribal and would like to be buried there, they need to come ask Council. Don asked Council if that is a decision that can be made by Rhonda Foster. Jim suggested the Cemetery Committee can address those questions as well. If Rhonda has any question, she can work with the Chairman also. Don would like to change the policy to state that a non-tribal request needs to go to Rhonda, instead of coming to Council. Council approved.

Council agreed to make a donation to Daybreak Star for \$500.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.