

DRAFT

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
November 25, 2008**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Vince Henry, Sr.	Secretary
Russell Harper	Treasurer (<i>arrived at 10:38 a.m.</i>)
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member (<i>left at 3:30 p.m.</i>)
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Executive Director

Ray Peters

Legal Counsel

Kevin Lyon

Recording Secretary

Melissa Puhn

Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. Charlene Krise offered the opening prayer.

Bob Whitener Sr. and Glen Parker were present to discuss the Veterans Memorial with Council. Bob explained that when the Veterans Committee initially sent out the announcement inviting individuals with Squaxin affiliation to be included in the memorial; they did not have a cut off date. Bob is requesting on behalf of the committee that the cut off date be the dedication date of the Memorial which was July 2008. The committee has included space for future Squaxin Tribal Veterans to be included; but would like to cut off the inclusion of any non-Squaxin member. There are no names pending at this time. Council agreed by consensus to have the cut off date for non-Squaxin veterans to be July 2008.

Bob asked about the necessity of continuing the Veterans Committee meetings. Their initial goal was to establish the memorial which is now complete. Council suggest they continue to meet quarterly. Arnold requested periodic updates from the committee and to know if any assistance is needed from Council.

The committee was formed over four years ago, and at that time they sent out letters to all tribal veterans requesting their military information; the committee is still waiting to receive all letters. Bob asked if Council could write a letter to the veterans requesting that information be submitted as soon as possible.

Glen stated that the committee is in the process of purchasing uniforms for posting colors at events, funded by the One Percent Committee. Council would like to host a dinner to honor the committee and their volunteers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vince Henry moved to approve the November 25th Council Agenda. Charlene would like to add a travel report, hunting, and a discussion about the food bank. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against. Vince moved to approve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Vince Henry moved to approve the November 13th minutes as amended. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

December 8-13: Inter-department Tribal Justice, Safety & Wellness, Palm Springs, CA, Marcella, Misti and Charlene will attend

December 3: DOI Consultation Seattle, WA

December 3: Legislative Reception & Donner

December 4: Per Capita checks will be handed out

December 10: Talking Circle, 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

December 23: All Staff Christmas Brunch, Little Creek Hotel

January 10: Winter General Body Meeting, 9:00 a.m. TLG Gym

January 17-21, 2009: Presidential Inauguration, Washington DC. Dave, Russell, Vince, Charlene, Misti, Marcella, Ray and Bobby will attend.

CHAIRMANS UPDATE

Wireless internet service: Misti requested that she be able to have a wireless internet card for her laptop. She stated that when she is traveling the wireless at hotels are unsecured therefore fears the security of her laptop. Council approved for each Council member to be subscribed for this service if they would like.

Per capita: Ray provided the schedule and amounts for distribution. Ray stated the tribe needs to follow the revenue allocation plan, but it is Councils decision on when to distribute funds. Arnold would like to see a breakdown of revenue created by KTP and where it goes.

Directors Christmas gifts: Council agreed to stay status quo of last year; but Council would like directors to have a choice of gift cards.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Clam digs: Andy Whitener presented the clam dig schedule. Andy assured that the same rules apply for state beaches. He reported on the upcoming digs and the enhancement program.

Employee Benefits 2009: Deb Stoehr, Whitney Jones and Ray Peters provided an update on their discussions with the Pequots about employee benefits. PEBB has declined the tribe this year but they will continue to work on it for next year. Deb stated that they need to sign for the current benefits program by the start of the year. She recommends renewing what they have had in the past, with a few changes.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

They would like to change the dental provider from Standard Insurance to MetLife. The new policy will have more coverage with a lesser cost. Deb stated that if Council decides to go with a self-insured plan through the Pequots or any third party administrator, she will check their references.

PLANNING

Brian Thompson provided an update on the grant writing process. He reported that the Housing Enforcement Officer is working out well. Council asked if Housing could provide magnets that list useful phone numbers; e.g. the Housing Enforcement Officer, Law Enforcement, etc.

Brian handed out a flow chart showing how they identify needs which are based on comments made from the general body, Council and departmental unmet needs. The Planning Department receives information on grants from a variety of sources which are screened and then forwarded to his planners who then do further research for the appropriate departments/programs. He now has three vacancies for the Planners that left. Some grants require a match ion funding, some have limits on hiring and a lot of grants are tightly regulated on how the funding is spent. Arnold would like to see the Casino and Island Enterprises put money in to matching government grants and funding more tribal programs.

Marcella asked about the cemetery; Brian stated there is no structure plans yet but as the cemetery grows there is a location picked for a future building.

Charlene would like to see a plan during construction for environmentally friendly waste treatment. Brian reminded that the tribe is using the best technology available for wastewater treatment.

Council approved the formation of a Utilities Commission which will be comprised of the Government comptroller, Enterprises comptroller and Casino comptroller, Utilities Manager and would like to advertise for two community positions.

Ray stated there is enough freezer space to accommodate the food bank and will begin to solicit hunters to get an elk.

Ray provided a quick update on the Rawson Property, this will not be rented out.

Ray updated on the dentist interview; the interview is rescheduled for December 5th and he will be on the interview panel.

Ray provided a breakdown of the enrolled kids at the Child Development Center.

Ray provided a letter for the Chairman's signature for The Evergreen State College for the Reservation Based Program.

Arnold requested the water pressure be looked at in the duplexes; Ray will look in to.

Council agreed by consensus to appoint Vince Henry as the Council Representative on the Utilities Commission.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Bob Whitener, Jr., John Kelsh, Cameron Goodwin, Vince Santiago, Mike Peters, Mark West were present.

John Kelsh shared his work history on developing properties as a resort destination. He did a presentation on tourism possibilities and potentials for the Casino.

LITTLE CREEK OVERSIGHT BOARD

Cameron and Mike provided a financial report for the Casino.

Cameron discussed marketing, gaming, and hotel occupancy during the past month.

Dave asked about the deficit of the points the Casino has. Cameron reported that the liability is only on points 18 months and newer. After 18 months the points zero; with credits the Casino can allow a 60 day notice before their credits expire. MVP points are used in the retail shop, hotel room and food.

Cameron went over the operations report. They have new games on the floor and table games are doing well.

Vince provided a marketing update and shared the promotions they will be doing during December.

Cameron reported on the status of the compliance officer job description; Kevin handed out the draft which will be presented to LCOB for recommendation to Council. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Cameron stated that he would like to see Council attend a training “Roles of Council and Casino” which provides financial training. He will look in to the training information and report back to Council. Arnold would like a clear training on Council activities pertaining to the Casino; what Council can and cannot do. Cameron and Mike will put that training together.

SQUAXIN YOUTH COUNCIL

Jessica Cruz, Jaimie Cruz, Koreena Capoeman, Kassidy Whitener and Elijah Krise of the Youth Council came to share with Tribal Council that they would like to be involved with Tribal Council Meetings. The Youth Council Meetings are held every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. and invited Council to attend. The Youth Council would like a picture with Tribal Council at the next meeting.

TRIBAL LIASION REPORT

Will Penn provided on his position and what he has been working on. Charlene would like to see Will included with trainings that TGA and the Council attends regarding casino issues.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Will also stated that the Native Wellness Institute is looking for a Tribal Representative to attend their trainings. Will would like to be the representative if nobody else is interested. Council will look in to it and get back to him.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Tribal Member requested assistance from Council to help pay airfare for a trip to Washington DC for the Presidential Inauguration. Council decided not to assist.

LEGAL

Council went in to Executive Session.