

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2020**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Arnold Cooper	Chairman (<i>absent</i>)
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Jeremie Walls	Secretary
	Bev Hawks	1st Council Member
	David Whitener, Jr.	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Marvin Campbell offered the opening prayer. Charlene Krise called the meeting to order. Vicki would like to discuss how the agenda is set. Vince moved to approve the May 20, 2020 Council Agenda. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

Elections Update: Josh Whitener shared the options that the Elections Committee came up with, regarding the 2020 Elections. He shared their two plans:

Plan A would be to proceed with the election at the Event Center, like years past. Except attendees would be limited to eligible voters only, no non-Squaxin spouses and no kids. 6' seating and facemasks will be required for everyone. They will provide a separate optional area for elders and high-risk individuals in the ballroom, with live streaming of the elections.

Plan B would be mail in voting. They would follow the same procedure as the State of Washington. Would need to have all voters register and ensure addresses are updated. This option would take about three months.

Jeremie asked about updating the elections process to accommodate mail in balloting, as a future option. Josh stated that the committee would like to discuss that, and work with the consultant, James Mills to review the constitution and make necessary amendments.

Vicki brought up the process of changing the constitution, and asked that enrollment and other updates be looked at, as well. Josh shared that the elections committee would like to be involved with that, but those changes will need more people and more time. The

elections piece is relatively small. It would probably be easiest to update the elections, and then set a plan to look at the enrollment piece.

David suggested creating a constitutional committee to look at the constitution. Jeremie agreed, each topic will take some in depth conversation and would like each issue to get its own attention.

Charlene stated that Council hears Vicki's concern, but knows that the election portion of the constitution needs to be changed as soon as possible. For the time being, she wants to give the election committee permission to move forward with the changes. She also wants to create an ad-hoc constitution committee.

David asked about any consideration with doing a drive by balloting, or something. Maybe a small meeting for nominations. He stated that one of the problems he sees is the possibility of a seated member being elected to another position, and having to have another elections for a vacated seat.

Vicki doesn't agree with mail in ballots since it would take so long. Her preference is Plan A. Jeremie agreed and supported that as well. Charlene asked about how to address the quorum. Josh said that they could address it the same way, do a count as folks sign in.

Vicki moved to approve Plan A. David seconded the motion. Charlene added she hopes the election committee makes the expectations clearly defined and communicate with the General Council what the details will be. Charlene would like to see a FAQ shared with the people, so they are comfortable coming in to the election. Josh added that he will do a video explaining what the process will look like and hopefully answer the questions before they're asked. Josh has an email set up for questions. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against. Josh will notify the committee.

Council granted permission to create an ad-hoc committee to review and continue working with consultant, James Mills on constitutional changes; and agreed to provide the necessary funding to do so.

Audit Committee: Vicki would like to see a small group of people appointed to an audit committee. This is at the request of the auditors. Marvin added that there was approval for one RPF for all entities, so he believes that this upcoming audit should be able to have one auditor for all entities. Currently, the CFO's from all three entities meet quarterly. Marvin stated that he could formalize that group to make it a committee. Vicki said that it's tough for her to review financials since she's not an expert, but she wants someone with a

financial background to review the financials before they go to audit. Jeremie shared that he feels what Marvin is currently doing, works.

Council will further discuss committees and commissions at their next meeting. Vicki would like to actually have a few hours set aside for discussing the expectations and responsibilities of the committees, and removing council members from said committees and commissions.

August Per Capita: Marvin stated that the Tribe received Department of Treasury Cares Act funding. Part of those funds could be used to replace “loss of tribal member income”. The Department of Treasury Cares Act funding might be able to fund distributions to tribal members in August instead of the tribal tax revenue.

Marvin shared that Legal has looked in to “General Welfare” from the Cares Act, and will be fully vetted with Legal before any decision is made, and it will be for all tribal members not only community. Legal is working on verbiage to see if it’s possible to be non-taxable.

Marvin brought up the fisherman disaster relief funds that went out last year. This year, the NOAA relief funds are minimal. NR is looking to spend \$375k to reallocate to pay fisherman from last years relief. They are considering all fisherman from 2010-2019, which is about 167 people. This equates to about \$2200 per person. Marvin asked if Council is okay with him asking the awarding agency for that change. Jeremie wanted to make sure the previous commitments have been met. Jeremie added that fisheries worked hard on getting the information together for the relief package. This funding is specific to the fin fishery.

Charlene asked about deferring the housing payments for the month of April and asked of the Cares Act can assist with payments for members affected by COVID. She wanted to make sure people are not running behind on their payments.

EDUCATION UPDATE

Gordon James and Sally Brownfield were present. Charlene asked about having an honoring for the graduates posted at the entrance of the reservation. Janita is working on something with the school district; posting pictures of the 2020 Graduates. Gordon is also looking in to ways to acknowledge the graduates.

Early Headstart: Sis shared that they are applying for COVID Funds to pay the workers COLA. They are still providing services and being a partnership program keeps all of the kids together, regardless of where their funding comes from. The Early Head Start (EHS)

Program has been sending out activity kits and educational materials each week, with the teachers doing Facebook story time and activities. Each parent has been sent a packet for kindergarten readiness. There has been a lot of information sharing with the kids. The center staff is doing a fabulous job and supporting the kids and families.

The construction has started up again and Sis has been meeting with Joanne Decicio and an architect from Spokane for the expansion.

Charlene thanked Sis for her work with EHS, especially her outdoor education work. The outdoor education has been such a good addition.

Vicki asked about the \$500k grant that was received for childcare under COVID funds. Gordon stated that he has been in touch with SPIPA and are identifying funds to pay staff. SPIPA is working on the verbiage for the funds to allow that.

Sis added that EHS has been so great to work with, and they have waived the tribal match requirements and they have granted the COLA request as well.

Charlene shared her concerns about the impacts this pandemic has to public education and the necessity for the tribe to adapt to the changes such as looking in to virtual schools and assisting parents.

Sgwi Gwi and possible alternatives: Gordon shared they have been looking at what other communities are doing, while also trying to match that with public health realities. Gordon added that between The Scoop, Facebook, and website, information sharing would be easy. He also liked the idea that was suggested about adding photos of graduates on the LCCR reader board. Gordon handed out a list of options for Council to consider. He asked Council to look over the list and let him know their preference. Charlene added that he should reach out to the graduates to see what they would like to do.

Charlene shared her concern about the reality that the youth may not go back to school this fall, like they're accustomed to. She wants to see that TLC is ready to help kids and have a plan to be prepared to help the students. Marvin stated that they have a couple of departments with ideas such as vocational training opportunities. Marvin has asked departments to prepare like schools won't be starting this fall. Charlene added that the Museum can assist in cultural and history lessons.

Sally shared that the Shelton School district is forming a committee on what re-opening schools will look like. One of her concerns is all of the virtual learning: teachers got

training with virtual teaching, but parents didn't get training on teaching their own kids. She is concerned about supporting the parents.

Health Insurance update: Erika handed out information on the self-insurance change. Council previously approved moving forward, but there have been some changes since that approval. She handed out an outline, comparing of the two plans, and what changed since last meeting. Previously, the plan was to move some employees to self insured, and maintaining the nontribal employees with Kaiser through the end of the year. However, after meeting with Kaiser, they stated because there have been so many benefit changes from other organizations within the Kaiser network, they are moving to a national underwriting platform. Upon renewal or any change by the client, Kaiser may re-evaluate the status and assign new monthly premiums. As the new underwriting process will include different measures, rates will increase dramatically. Her new recommendation is to eliminate the Kaiser Contract for all employees, immediately. United Healthcare is willing to pay the Kaiser Premium for those employees who want to stay with Kaiser, until Dec 31. She explained the cost savings for the Tribe, and the deductible savings for the employee.

As directed, Erika will share this information with Kristen Davis at IEI so they can consider the change as well.

Charlene added the importance of consolidating HR and Medical with LCCR, Government and IEI, to have a strong front as a tribe.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray Peters provided a quick update on the LCCR re-opening. The media has been good so far, and his approach is that he meets with them on his terms. The messaging that has been shared is that Squaxin is following its own phased approach. Tribal businesses provide revenue for essential services for the tribe and community. So far everything is going well and getting a lot of compliments from patrons. Rearranging of the gaming floor has worked out well. Yesterday, they were at capacity, with a lineup at the door. He added that LCCR has the support of the county commissioners.

Ray shared an update on the Youth Investment Accounts. He shared that he receives quarterly reports and that the accounts have not been as volatile as predicted.

ISLAND ENTERPRISES, INC.

Dave Johns shared a concern that came up regarding an unemployment issue.

He provided an update on the RFP for tribal artists for the Casino.

Dave provided an update on clam digs and how they would like to raise the limits on digs, since they have not been getting good turnouts.

Ray gave an update on a function that was cancelled at the Collier House. After much discussion, Council was supportive of the decision made.

Council went in to Executive Session to discuss an enrollment question. No action.

ENROLLMENT

Tammy Ford presented the following enrollment resolutions:

Resolution #20-19 enrolls Imani Rose Murray

Resolution #20-20 enrolls Sofia Jay Cattaneo

Resolution #20-21 enrolls Tayen Renee Blueback

Resolution #20-22 enrolls Niko Daniel-Lee Howland

Resolution #20-23 enrolls Owen Francis Bell

Resolution #20-24 enrolls Anthony John Furtado, Jr.

Resolution #20-25 enrolls Alaiyah Adair Marie Lewis

Resolution #20-26 enrolls Bell Marie Ackerman-Johns

Vicki moved to approve all enrollment resolutions. David seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeremie provided an update on a conference call he took part in with Olympic College regarding a construction trade program. He is excited about the possibility of having a partnership for construction trades.

Charlene emphasized the importance of making good practices into policy, and getting rid of bad practices. She would like to see the committees and commissions strengthened and create strong policies that the tribe follows.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00