

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2020**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Arnold Cooper	Chairman
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair (<i>absent</i>)
	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	

Bev Hawks offered the opening prayer.

Arnold Cooper asked Council what they wanted to accomplish. He knows that they would like to discuss the importance of Committees, Commissions and Boards, but what is important and how does Council want to show that? What are their roles? Is Council giving them enough guidance?

Jeremie shared that he would like to see the committees updated and current. He also understands the difficulty of having Council members serve on committees and would like to see Council members relinquish some of that control. Committees, Commissions and Boards all report to Council, so Council does make the final decisions; that being said, Council needs to step down from serving.

Davey asked what the intent is; as an organization, what do committees do to affect and produce what Council wants them to.

Vicki added that committees do not regularly report to Council, and they should. Recently, a commission was angry that Council did not follow their recommendation. Which tells her that they all need training on who makes final decisions. She reiterated that they need to report to Council on a regular basis.

She wants to make sure that today Council assigns a task force to address the audit. Vicki wants to offer training, even if it's as simple as a handout.

Charlene added that the MLRC has policies and procedures that are fashioned after the tribal government. She was surprised that MLRC was listed as a finding from the last audit. She affirmed that the MLRC policies have always been in place and has been for years. There is nothing the MLRC has done to muddy the waters for Squaxin. To even be the Executive Director, she took an oath stating that she lives in a glass house 24/7.

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Charlene added that there currently is an ordinance for Committees and Commissions that needs to be followed.

Charlene said that policies need to be followed and as new members join Council; they need to be trained on tribal ordinances and policies.

Arnold said that Kevin started a "Council Training" for new members, and feels that it's important to have this training on a regular basis.

Charlene also believes and supports to removing Council members from committees and commission since they are stopping the process of allowing tribal members to speak their mind. There sometimes is a conflict.

Arnold agreed and wants to allow the committees to speak freely, but also to ensure that the committees report to Council regularly.

Bev felt that since Council is so busy and has grown, that boards and committees were created with a Council Representative to attend to listen in to the meetings, and were available to answer questions. She sees that would be how committees could report to Council, through a Council member who report on each committee. Bev added that if a Council Representative is appointed, and does not attend meetings, that is a disservice to the community. She does not want to have committees without a Council Representative, to ensure compliance of the committee.

Jeremie does agree that the structure of having a Council Representative is important, but he does not want to see Council members serve as members or alternates. If Council wants to be a Representative, that is important. Charlene added that a Council Representative could not vote or input. Vince added that one Council member could not represent Council. He feels that committees and commissions should have the training that they need so they will not need a Council Representative. It's all about training staff and tribal members to be able to run their own committee and commission.

Charlene would like to have an honoring dinner and have them meet with Council regularly. She added that the bylaws state an annual report is due each year as well.

Jeremie added that if they follow the bylaws, it is a lot of work for the committees to do, which makes training all that much more important.

Bev suggested Jeremie send a letter to each committee stating that they review their bylaws and follow them. Bev added that each member needs to know and have the bylaws, mission

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statement and responsibilities. She said that Council has dropped the ball and have not followed through to hold the committees accountable.

Charlene added that each committee has a staff support to serve as administrative secretary. This goes back to Marvin, who can designate each department to designate a staff to administer each committee. Vince added that Council does not want to intimidate, but empower them.

Marvin added that the bylaws clearly states the intent of commissions. However, he sees a Council member being in the room during a meeting, inhibits the discussions. If Council actually does sit in as a Representative, and not vote or discuss, then sure; but that is not how it comes across. He added that Council should be aware of their title, regardless of which "hat" is being worn. Council Representatives on committees report to Council, not set the temperature of the meetings.

Arnold felt it important to have them sit in to listen. He would rather see the committee report to Council, and not the Council Representative.

Marvin offered to start with training committee members. He also suggested not having directors serve on committees due to their workload and the possible influence.

Marvin suggested re-advertising committees and commissions to get a new list of names. With that, adding more information and including the ordinance with the announcement. Empower people. Vicki would like to address the stipend issue with committees.

Marvin added that the Enrollment Committee ensures that one member from each family is represented. He feels that every family needs to be represented on a committee.

David shared that he is a member of Aquatics, which is an active committee. He also served on TGA, and they have a training timeline and a provision for missed meetings.

Charlene brought up virtual training, and once completed they receive a certification.

Jeremie said that he took a virtual ethics training from Olympic College and had a certification at the end.

Council directed Marvin to start realigning committees and commissions. Re-advertise the vacant positions with more descriptions on what serving on the committee means. Also, consider capping how many committees one person can serve on. There will be one Council Representative on each committee, listening role only. Part of the training will be to tell the members that Council Reps will not vote nor provide input.

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Council will not serve as a committee member or alternate.

Council would like to make new appointments in July.

Charlene would like to see professional training offered. Educate the members to what they are entering into.

Marvin asked about contractor hiring preference. He would like to identify someone to create a committee to oversee the ordinance and to report to Marvin. He wanted guidance from Council before that process was started. This would be a hiring & contracting ordinance committee.

Charlene would like to reinstate the Law & Order Committee.

Vicki went back to the Audit Committee and would like to appoint a committee. Marvin reiterated that before the pandemic, Deb and the other CFO's started reconciling each quarter. If Vicki wants something more than that, what is that? Marvin said that he can reinstate that meeting of the CFO's. Charlene wants accuracy and truth on this committee, so she feels that there needs to be strong facts and numbers. She does not want information diluted, and would rather hear directly from the auditor or CFO's. She feels that if a committee gets involved, it would dilute the information.

Vicki would like to see a committee made up of the three entity CFO's and either the Council Treasurer and/or the Tribal Administrator. This group would hire the auditor, review audits and report to Council. Marvin added that he is working with the other entities on a single audit. LCCR is under contract with their auditor until 2021. He is looking in to the feasibility of one auditor. Marvin does not want to ask the finance staff to change auditors this year since they already are dealing with the CARE Act, Pandemic, changing insurances and juggling budget season.

David asked about not getting involved with LCCR audits just because that is a different animal with the regulatory and compact pieces. Suggested only doing IEI and Gov. Marvin agreed, sharing that it is getting more convoluted than he thought.

Vicki asked if she could help with the RFP for finance. Arnold told her to work with Marvin. He appreciates her willingness to help, however, be careful. Marvin does want an answer regarding David's question: Can Council not involve the Casino audit due to regulatory issues. That authority has been delegated to TGA, and protects Council with the separation. Exclude LCCR from being part of the auditor choice and leave that up to Dallas. Marvin is seeking permission to do an RFP for IEI and Gov and not include LCCR. Council agreed.

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Marvin brought up an email regarding clam digging and unemployment. He will seek Legal advice, but he recommends the tribe staying away from this. The tribe needs to stay out of assisting with unemployment. Clam digs do not fall under unemployment.

Jeremie added that this probably stems from the independent contractor provision for unemployment. Marvin reiterated the importance of being careful of what Council promises to help with. He is waiting for a response from Legal on what to share.

Jeremie added that he thought Andy was in the process to ask NOAA for permission to use those funds as a disbursement to the fisherman. Marvin confirmed that he is working on that. Jeremie asked about clam diggers, and what can be done for them? How can the Tribe help all the treaty fisherman who are not getting the income they are used to?

Marvin shared that from the Exec Team meeting, LCCRs numbers have been good, and if the numbers in Mason County stay how they are, he would like to open the reservation mid-June.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.