

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2020**

Attendance:

Tribal Council	Kristopher Peters	Chairman
	Charlene Krise	Vice Chair
	Vicki Kruger	Treasurer
	Jeremie Walls	Secretary
	Andy Whitener	1st Council Member
	David Whitener, Jr.	2nd Council Member
	Vince Henry, Sr.	3rd Council Member
Tribal Administrator	Marvin Campbell	
Tribal Liaison	Ray Peters	
Recording Secretary	Melissa Puhn	

Kris Peters called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
Marvin Campbell offered the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vicki asked to add discussion regarding the COVID funds for employees. Kris added that this years ICW “foster kid adoption” for Christmas should be done on an individual basis. Vicki Kruger moved to approve the November 12th Council Agenda. Jeremie Walls seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

November 8-13: NCAI Virtual Annual Conference: Jeremie, David and Ray will attend.
November 18: Turkey Basket assembly, 8am. SCT
November 19: 31st Annual Centennial Accord Virtual Meeting
November 20: Turkey Basket distribution, 3-6pm

Vicki asked about rescheduling the next work session that is scheduled for the 19th so Council can attend Centennial Accord.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Centennial Accord planning/Squaxin talking points: Kris shared that he is working with Ray on talking points and wants input from Council. Jeremie would like to discuss the illegal dams and estuaries that need attention.

IEI Board update: Ray stated that Council discussed the composition of the board and it is up to Council what the next step is. Nate added that coming out of the last work session; he drafted the makeup of the board to be five (5) non Council Members with one ex officio board member, being a Council member. Kris would like to solicit board members by asking for letters of interests from tribal members.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Vicki added that she was told by a past Council Chairman that any council member can attend any committee meeting they want. She feels that a council needs to be on every committee. She would like clarification on whether she can attend committee meetings or not. Kris reiterated that if any member misses three unexcused absences, they are kicked off the committee. Jeremie reminded that it is his duty as secretary, to follow up on committee attendance.

Nate shared that there are different rules that apply to commissions, committees and enterprise boards. The ordinance addresses open and public meetings. Kris added that Vicki could ask each board and committee chair if she can sit in on the meeting, however, she needs to sit in the back, listen, and not take over as a council member. Extensive discussion regarding attendance and requirements of committees etc.

Vicki wants it reflected in the minutes that Council is allowed to attend meetings. Charlene shared that she is supportive of council attending meetings, but council needs to have boundaries and not meddle in day-to-day business; Council needs to be careful where they tread and step. She also believes it's important to have a pulse of what's going on, but to do so carefully. She would like to see committees present to Council, allowing members take ownership of their committee. She believes it's important to keep that connection with tribal members.

Kris would like to get the Island Enterprise Board positions advertised as soon as possible, so a board can be appointed. Nate will work on that.

The Constitution Committee notice was advertised.

Enrollment Moratorium: Vicki shared that in 2009 the Enrollment Committee shared a presentation to Council on the moratorium. The moratorium has been set in place, and nothing has been done since. Vicki would like to discuss this further at a work session. Jeremie added that this has been a long ongoing conversation and reminded that the past Chairman has directed the Enrollment Committee to make a presentation the General Body.

Marvin stated that Tammy provided a presentation at last year's Winter General Body Meeting and shared how different changes would impact the tribe in different ways. Marvin emphasized the importance of educating tribal members prior to asking them to vote on a decision like this. He has asked Tammy to share educational information to the general body and this will be done by the end of the year.

Charlene asked about setting up a webinar to discuss enrollment, blood quantum, etc. Council had extensive discussion regarding enrollment.

Kris shared that the moratorium was a Council decision, so he believes any changes to it need to also be a Council decision. He would like to set up a work session to discuss the moratorium only.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Vicki brought up the idea of serving descendants through TANF. Marvin shared that he reached out to Family Services and they are supportive of the idea. They are working on a resolution to allow for serving descendants however, any quarter that reaches 80% of the budget, the programs will defer to serving Squaxin members only. Marvin will define "descendant" the same way the hiring preference defines it.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

COVID / Vaccine Update: Marvin shared how the vaccine made headlines on Monday and how the clinic will not be pursuing that vaccine. That particular vaccine has specific storage requirements that the tribe does not have the capability of. He stated that the tribe will be getting vaccines through IHS and not the State, since the state is distributing to Counties based on impact. He would like to wait to see how the vaccine will actually work. Front line workers will be a priority, then elders. Jeremie asked about the amount that was requested and if it will be available. Marvin has no way of saying that in a timeline what will be available.

COVID Relief: Vicki asked about the employee COVID Relief check. Her question relates to council, and whether or not Vicki and Jeremie are employees. Marvin stated that whoever is on the tribes payroll, are eligible.

As far as COVID itself, Marvin explained how the cases are spiking, and is being declared a humanitarian disaster. Mason County is still fairing very well, Thurston has jumped quite a bit. Marvin thanked Council for approving the staff distribution, staff are ecstatic. As of now, there is about \$1M left to spend by the end of the year, which is up to Council on what to do with it. Jeremie shared that an additional distribution might be a good idea. Council was supportive of the additional distribution of \$1,500 for each tribal adult.

Education update: Erika provided an update on the Shelton School District distance learning. They will be handing out the distance learning kits that include Chromebooks, paper, headphones, printers, etc. TLC will be setting up the computer lab upstairs in the Learning Center. They will be upgrading those computers and providing a quiet learning space for kids. DIS is working hard on getting that ready.

Erika shared that TLC has been looking on to a program called ClubZ, for online and in person tutoring. They also offer ACT and SAT prep for higher education. There will be more outreach to help with higher education preparation.

Erika reported that TLC will be meeting with the school district tomorrow to help identify and come up with solutions for the at risk youth.

Jeremie asked about the pathways to higher education. He wanted to bring up the OCCU vocational rehab programs they have. Since he feels they would be a good asset.

Kris thanked Erika for all her work with the staff changes and understands the difficulties of these changes. He appreciated her stepping up and keeping things going during this time.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Childcare Development Center Update: Sally Brownfield shared that there are a lot of changes at the Child Development Center. She shared that she has the only computer that has a camera on it, so the online classes the staff has been doing, has all been on their personal phones. The Early Headstart Grant is due soon and she is working on getting everything updated for that. Sally presented a Resolution that appoints the Policy Council, as required by the grant. Vicki moved to approve Resolution #20-59, which appoints the Policy Council, which is made up of parents. Jeremie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sally reminded Council that as the grant requirement, Council needs to attend training. She will set something up soon. With COVID, most of the training has been condensed. The Policy Council will also have a day of training. The year 3 grant is due on Dec 1, and she is in the process of getting that together. A phone poll will need to be done for that when it's ready.

Virtual Council meetings discussion: Kris shared that he felt that the All Staff Appreciation Dinner webinar went well, once people got used to it. He would like to use this option for future Council Meetings, allowing tribal members to participate as attendees. He will be part of a meeting with DIS tomorrow to work out with the particulars of it, and will report back. Kris suggested announcing the meeting dates, and the community can put questions to Council ahead of time and can address that in a council meeting. Vince brought up the idea of Talking Circles and General Body Meetings be done this way.

Sis shared that they are fixing the playgrounds, getting the roofed fixed and had a black mold test, which came back negative. However, there is a lot of moisture that needs to be taken care of. Still working towards a reopening date. She is submitting to another grant to create a second outdoor learning environment. She stated that the outdoor programming allows for a lot of outdoor quality time. The lessons with kids are going well. Teachers deliver packets to each family, and teach online. Things are going as well as they can, but also thankful to get everything together during the time the building is empty.

Charlene asked about having the required training recorded so Council can attend on their own schedule. Sis will check in to that.

Department of Correction: Marvin presented Resolution #20-56, which appoints Marcella Castro and Charlene Abrahamson to work with the Department of Corrections and tribal inmates. Vicki moved to approve. Vince seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Bylaws for TERO Committee: Marvin reported that the bylaws need to be in place before a Committee is formed. He provided the draft bylaws for Council to review. Council approved by consensus and appointed Vicki as the Council Rep.

Water: Marvin provided a waterline update. They are currently drilling the well, which is at 100 feet deep as of now, and is going.. well. He is trying to find a new engineer, since the first one did not work out. Marvin will be meeting with Dave Johns and Ramon to discuss how the rest of the project will go in 2021.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

TRIBAL GAMING AGENCY UPDATE

Dallas Burnett and Patti Puhn provided an update from TGA. Dallas went over the revised ordinances which have been reviewed and approved by the Gaming Commission.

Council will review these changes and will submit their questions to Dallas. Council agreed to respond within one week.

Council discussed the new Tribal ID cards and how the Casino will be able to accept them as ID.

LITTLE CREEK CASINO UPDATE

Ramon Nunez provided a financial and revenue report for October. They have no banquets or events scheduled for the holidays.

Ramon went through the financial report as well as the LCCR Capital Project schedule.

Discussed different promotional ideas and plans.

Ramon shared that he has visioning plans with Council and would like to discuss what their visions are for the Casino; including artwork, food, etc. He would like to clarify what the expectations are.

Vince commended Ramon for doing what he does. Ramon added that his staff are stressed and tired.

Kris asked about a visioning with Council. The casino is a reflection of Squaxin, so this is a good opportunity to define what the tribe is about. After meeting with the Council, Ramon will work with directors to come up with an implementation plan.

TRIBAL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray shared that Governor Inslee will be providing a COVID Update speech tonight and plans to speak on a weekly basis as the cases increase.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.