

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2005**

Attendance:

Council Members

**Dave Lopeman, Chairman (absent)
Andy Whitener, Vice Chair
Vince Henry, Sr., Secretary
Patti Puhn, Treasurer
Paula Henry, 1st Council Member
Roy Perez, 2nd Council Member (absent)
Charlene Krise 3rd Council Member**

Executive Director

Deputy Executive Director (acting)

Recording Secretary

Legal

Ray Peters

Donald E. Whitener

J. Ruby Fuller

Kevin Lyon

Paula Henry offered the opening prayer. Andy Whitener called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ray announced that the minutes will be sent out the Monday before the scheduled Thursday Council meeting and the draft agenda will be sent out the next day (*Tuesday*).

Swimming Pool Use: Ray reported on the decision regarding the request for tribal members to be allowed use of the hotel swimming pool. He reported that the Chairman and Doug Boon had spoken together about this issue and that Doug will be talking with his staff regarding a possible morning they could use the pool.

MINUTES/AGENDA

Charlene moved to approve the January 13, 2005 minutes. Paula Henry seconded the motion. The motion carried, four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

Vince Henry, Paula Henry, Charlene Krise and Ray Peters plan to attend the **ATNI Winter Conference, February 7-10** at the Portland Airport.

NCAI Executive Council Winter Session 2005 is scheduled for **February 28-March 2** in Washington, D. C. Vince Henry and Ray Peters plan to attend. (*Andy will not be attending. Paula may attend.*)

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS *(Continued)*

Patti Puhn, Paula Henry and Charlene Krise plan to attend the **Wellness & Women XII Conference, April 3-7** in San Diego.

Andy Whitener plans to attend the **NTEC 12th Annual National Conference, May 3-5** in Green Bay. *(Ray will not attend because of the Self Governance Conference scheduled at that time.) (Andy will not be attending.)*

Representatives from **LOTT** plan to visit here on **February 2nd, 2005, 9:00 a.m.** Charlene will give them a tour of the museum.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Tribal Council reviewed two letters from tribal members.

Donation Request: Council approved the request by Lucy James for the donation of two gallons of oysters for an intertribal fellowship meeting.

General Body Meeting Date: The date of the General Body Meeting has been changed to May 7.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Little Creek Casino/Hotel General Manager Evaluation: Ray gave an update.

Occupancy tax: Ray spoke about having a Tourism Director for Island Enterprises, Inc., the Museum and Little Creek Casino/Hotel. He would like to create a budget for the Occupancy Tax with a percentage going toward cultural tourism. He said the plan at this time is to have the director managed by a commission made up of members from Island Enterprises, Museum and LCCH. Ray will bring a proposal to Council.

County Commissioners: The dinner meeting Tribal Council is hosting for the County Commissioner will be February 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Island Grill.

Council Work Session: The Council Work Session is scheduled for **March 13-17** at Quinault Beach Resort. This session will not include Island Enterprises or the Little Creek Casino/Hotel. They will be scheduled for a later date.

LEGAL

The following resolutions were presented to Council for approval.

Problem Gambling Resolution: Kelly Croman presented **Resolution #05-08** approving the agreement between Squaxin Island Tribe and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and directs payment of \$20,000 for use pursuant to the agreement. After discussion, Charlene made a motion to approve **Resolution #05-08**. Paula seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of four in favor and zero against and no abstentions.

Port Blakeley Resolution: Resolution 05-09 which approves the purchase of the real property from Port Blakely Tree Farms was presented for approval. Charlene made a motion to approve the **Resolution #05-09**. Patti Puhn seconded the motion. The motion carried, four (4) in favor and zero (0) against. Closing is scheduled to occur January 31, 2005. *(The documents have been executed and are with the title company at this time)*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE *(Continued)*

Casino Distribution: Ray asked Council for direction in developing protocol for the scheduled additional Casino distribution. \$500,000 will go toward per capita as approved previously by Council to be distributed in April. The remainder will go through the budget process earmarked for special projects; including \$200,000 for Health and Human Services. Ray will bring a resolution for Council consideration.. *(Glen reminded Council of his request for \$25,000 for the Veteran's Memorial. Ray indicated that he will find the necessary funds.)* Ray and Kevin will prepare a proposal and bring it back for Council approval.

Letter of Commendation: Ray directed Council's attention to the Mason County letter of commendation for assistance received during the Old Olympic highway reconstruction project in 2004 and the thank you letter from **Sammish Nation** for the hospitality shown to their Council representatives during their visit.

Art work: Steve and Andrea Sigo brought in some carved art work items they had completed for Council to view with one item for sale. Council agreed by consensus to purchase a large carved spindle for display in Council Chambers.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Ray commended Whitney Jones for job she did hosting the Health Board Conference at LCCH. Whitney thanked Council for sponsoring a lunch at the Conference. Whitney read a letter of appreciation addressed to her department and to the Council from tribal member, Lucille Quilts.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES *(Continued)*

Naming: Whitney reported there was little interest in naming the elders' building anything other than the Elders Building.

Additional Provider: Whitney informed Council they are considering an additional physician to be on staff which will make use of the additional funding allocation.

Whitney also reported that the after-hours clinic is doing well and she anticipates CHS at priority status level 1 and 2 should make it through the year without a deficit. Andy indicated that the amount of money in the Catastrophic Emergency Fund has gone down and needs to be augmented.

Charlene asked if additional funding would increase orthodontic care. The answer was that the budget would need to reflect a change to increase the amount. Whitney reported that she currently has a program which will fund 4-6 tribal members for orthodontics; the tribal members will be transported to Chemawa to receive services. The participants have been screened and will be traveling to Chemawa for their initial appointments within the next month.

Elders Participation: In response to Glen Parker's concern expressed previously about the declining attendance and participation in elders' group activities, Patti suggested a big event to get elders to participate more.

TANF Eligibility: Paula asked whether treaty income is included in income as it pertains to TANF eligibility (temporary assistance to needy families). Kevin said he will check and report back.

NWITC

New Employee Handbook: Revisions were provided and will be considered for approval at the next Council session.

CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Slocum Cemetery Update: Rhonda Foster reported on the meeting of January 20, 2005 with Manke Lumber representatives. Rhonda said they need to do oral histories with the Shaker Church to find out what happened to have the Shaker Church remove John Slocum to the Shelton cemetery. Rhonda stated that all parties agreed that training is necessary and if a burial appears to be Native American, tribe will have 100% management.

CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT *(Continued)*

Tribal Cemetery: Rhonda said the property designated for Slocum should be relegated to ancient times. The tribal cemetery is for a modern cemetery an acre will hold approximately 1000 bodies. DCD has tested the soil. Natural Resources will also do a soil/water table assessment. A question to consider is "Do we accept non tribal spouses or descendants?"

Rhonda indicated that after meeting next week with tribal members, she will come back to Council. Andy said he wants Manke to buy the land for the cemetery. He wants the cost to actually build the cemetery to be calculated. Rhonda requested the Legal Department's assistance in negotiating and drafting an agreement with Manke.

LCCH HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Peg Johnson left copies of policy changes for Little Creek Casino/ Hotel as requested by Council. Doug Boon was ill and not in attendance.

PLANNING

Brian Thompson presented **Resolution #05-10** supporting the submittal by SPIPA on behalf of the Squaxin Island Tribe's participation in Grants for Native Americans and Native American Caregiver Support Program Title VI, Part A and Part C, for the grant period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2008 to help fund the Squaxin Elders program. Patti made motion to approve **Resolution #05-10** for elders program. Paula seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) for and zero (0) against.

Signs: Brian presented a sample of a sign giving notice that all who enter Squaxin Island lands will be subject to search. These signs will be placed at each end of Kla Che Min. The welcome sign design was approved in concept. Brian is to bring back the final design.

Brian presented **Resolution # 05-11** amending the Interim Housing Ordinance. This was mailed out to the community and a public meeting was held. Council discussed the feedback received from community members at the public hearing. This amendment is for housing that has conveyed. It allows for a spouse to sell the house or to still occupy the house when a tribal member spouse dies. This does not apply to houses that are under HUD management. Paula made the motion to approve **Resolution 05-11**. Charlene seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) for and zero (0) against *(Brian stated that he needs a block of time to present to Council information regarding changes involved in going from mutual help to ownership) (Brian is to get with Ruby and/or Ray.)*

EDUCATION

Number of High School graduates: Kim Cooper presented to the Council the projected number of Squaxin high school students who will graduate barring nothing unforeseen, the projected number that could graduate but may not, and those that will not graduate. These figures are projected for the next 5 years.

Kim reported she and her staff have been working with Skokomish to develop a Memorandum of Agreement with Shelton school district to be able to track grades and truancy. Because of an Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) directive, as of yesterday, we no longer will get attendance or grades from the schools. The school district has promised to develop an information release for parents to sign. They are putting together an action plan in case parents don't sign the releases.

There is a NIEA meeting in February. Kim asked for Patti to attend Monday February 7 and would like a Council member to sit at the roundtable discussion. Paula and Charlene agreed to be at the roundtable.

Don asked if the Shelton School District would give the information to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Kevin is to construct a letter to OSPI with a copy to the Governor.

Kim reported further that she has been meeting with the new education director from Skokomish; tutoring is up and running; representatives from Sylvan will be coming this week; and the GED Program should be up and running in February. The Education Department will have summer school here this year. Youth can get their diploma until aged 21. It is called "Credit Retrieval Program". Charlene requested that an article be put in Kla Che Min letting people know about this program. They are putting together an education plan

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Jim Kindle gave power point presentation on the Child Development Center. When the Child Development Center opened the projected enrollment for this month was 45. Enrollment is now at 67. Jim stated that he is developing a transition plan for the children in the Development Center. As they are transitioned into rooms for older children, they will have a meeting similar to a parent/teacher conference to assist with the transition.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action taken.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY MEMBER CONCERN

A community member related that he did not know what was happening regarding his workers' compensation claim and stated that it has been four months since his injury. He was told that Berkley Risk Management would be making a decision about the award.

Tribal Council approved a permanent partial disability award recommended by Berkley Risk Management.

LEGAL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A letter will be sent to the Washington State Liquor Control Board Chairman, Merritt Long from the Council Chairman, Dave Lopeman.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.