

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
April 14, 2011**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman
Andy Whitener	Treasurer (<i>absent</i>)
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
Misti Saenz-Garcia	1st Council Member (<i>arrived at 9:30</i>)
Marcella Castro	2nd Council Member
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Legal Counsel
Tribal Administrator
Council Liaison
Recording Secretary

Kevin Lyon
Don Whitener
Ray Peters
Melissa Puhn

Pete Kruger offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Arnold Cooper moved to approve the April 14th Council agenda. Don Whitener added a travel item: May 11th BIA Land Owners Meeting at the Casino. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Arnold shared his concern about Council recently purchasing the spindle from Andrea Sigo. He shared that since Council has not yet advertised for commissioned artwork, he feels it's unfair to other tribal members who also have artwork to sell for the Salish Cliffs Clubhouse. He knows that Malynn Foster also has a cedar mat that she would like to sell for the same purpose. Ray stated that Council did not purchase the mat because they do not know about the space; Arnold just does not want it to appear that Council is favoring Andrea. Ray shared that Patti Puhn also has given a proposal for a cedar mat. Ray added that purchasing art for the clubhouse will come from the Council budget. A line item will be added via a budget modification. Arnold felt that since Council bought the spindle from Andrea, they should also buy the mat from Malynn. Charlene added that Council needs to have more equity to make sure all tribal artists have the opportunity to sell their artwork to the tribe. The casino can display more tribal artwork. Arnold would like to set a budget aside for buying tribal artwork for the casino/hotel/golf/tribal center décor. He suggested that the Casino and IEI should add funds to that budget as well. Ray will discuss this with Mitch and Bobby. Council voted by consensus to purchase the cedar woven mat from Malynn Foster, for \$6,300.

Arnold moved to approve the March 24 Council meeting minutes, March 28 phone poll minutes, March 30 phone poll minutes, March 31 phone poll minutes and the April 1 phone poll minutes. Kevin had some suggested edits and asked that the voting be held off.

Dave Lopeman shared that IEI is paying the bill for Cal Peters Memorial Service. Charlene suggested that she would like to see a packet of information for families when a member passes away. Don shared that there already is something like that in place. Kathy has all of the information.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

There were no changes to the minutes. Pete Kruger seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against.

TRAVEL REPORTS AND PLANS

April 13-14: WIGA, Tulalip, Andy

April 14: Candidate Forum, 5:00 p.m. Elders Building

April 17-20: NICWA, 29th Annual Conference, Anchorage AK. Marcella, Charlene and Misti will attend.

Arnold wanted to remind Council that he wants all ICW staff to attend the NICWA Conference. Arnold spoke to the ICW workers, and they felt that it would be okay if they all were gone. Don shared that the only concern is if they are all out of town, in the case of an emergency, nobody would be here to assist. Dave was told that one staff member needs to stay here and they will have an opportunity to attend a future training.

April 21: Dinner with Olympia City Council, 6pm at Tugboat Annies

April 26: Candidate Forum, 5:00 p.m. Elders Building

May 2-6: Annual Tribal Self Governance Conference, Palm Springs CA. Ray, Pete, Misti, Marcella will attend.

May 7: Annual General Body Meeting, LCC. Directors are required to attend.

May 11-12: Annual Tribal Mental Health Conference, Bow WA. Charlene would like to attend.

May 14-20: ATNI, Coeur D'Alene ID, Pete, Charlene and Arnold will attend.

May 11: BIA landowners meeting at LCC, 2pm. Stan Speaks, Herb Westmorland and staff will be there to discuss probates, land title issues, etc. for Chehalis, Nisqually and Squaxin members.

June 1-2: Native Leadership Forum, Pechanga CA.

June 6: MLRC 10th Annual Golf Tournament, Hawks Prairie. Ray handed out the entry forms and sponsorships. Council will sponsor two teams.

June 6-8: ATNI reschedule at Quinault. Pete will attend.

June 12-16: NCAI, Milwaukee WI

July 12-14: WIGA, Tulalip. Andy will attend.

Misti would like an executive session before lunch

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

CANOE JOURNEY UPDATE

Deb Meisner and Jeremiah George were here for an update. They went on a Port of Olympia tour last week. They will continue discussions with the Port next week and will look at an alternate landing site. Jeremiah has a Powerpoint Presentation to share pictures of a potential new landing site. Deb is working on an organization chart and will present it at the next Council meeting. Discussed ways to use the Island during the journey; potential for a “soft” landing.

Council would like to get the AV equipment in Council Chambers upgraded and easier to use.

Jeremiah shared his presentation that showed photos of a potential staging area downtown Olympia. Jeff Dickison was present and he shared that if the canoes landed during high tide, there should be no issues. Charlene asked Jeremiah to work with Jeff on the landing location. Dave shared that Council will meet with the Olympia City Council on the 21st.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Elizabeth Egan and Tracy Parker both presented **Resolution #11-22**. This grant resolution includes three multi-year projects: Public Safety and community policing; Violence against Women; and Tribal Youth Program. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve the grant resolution. Charlene Krise seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against. Charlene commended the Planning Department for all of the grants they have been able to acquire for the tribe.

COUNCIL LIAISON UPDATE

Ray shared that he will be meeting with Senator Maria Cantwell on April 25th. Her office will be visiting and would like to meet with him to discuss the needs of the tribe, including the budget. Ray would like to set up a tour of the treatment center.

Ray updated on his meeting with DNR. They have met twice regarding the trespass issue. Ray shared what was discussed at the meeting regarding the shellfish settlement. They agreed to look at options and come back to the tribe. Andy and Jeff have done a good job in staying firm with DNR. Arnold would like more updates as this goes on.

Ray shared that last week he met with Kathy Haigh who has signed on to the Equity in Fairness Gaming Bill. Ray explained that being the largest employer of Mason County there are a lot of families that depend on the Casinos success. Ray was glad she made time for him to meet.

Ray updated that he was contacted by a neighboring property owner on Old Olympic Highway. He is interested in selling and he’s willing to negotiate the price. Council gave Ray the approval to negotiate with the land owner.

Ray added that the Council property budget is spent; he would like to dip in to next years property budget if it’s okay. Council didn’t see any issue with it.

Don added that Carolyn Hoosier would like to sell her dads place that is along Simmons Rd. Council asked Ray to get more information on that piece.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ray asked for clarification on artwork for the clubhouse. Council would like Ray to put together a solicitation flier for tribal art work.

Council discussed the possibility of financial planning classes for tribal youth as they receive their trust accounts. Ray shared that Monty Davis from Charles Schwab is interested in coming out to teach seminars for the youth. He can teach the power of saving money and how to invest. Ray would like Council to think about having him come out a couple times each year, and schedule with the youth as they turn 18.

Jeff Dickison presented **Resolution #11-23** which authorizes the BIA to allocate Pacific Salmon Treaty funds for the Fiscal Year 2011 for Squaxin coho smolt research and data gathering projects in South Puget Sound. Misti Saenz-Garcia moved to approve the resolution. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried five (5) in favor and zero (0) against.

Don shared that Mildred Sharp, neighbor at Church Point, recently contacted Don. She said that the tribe has always allowed her to dig a bucket of clams for her use, from the tribes' property. She asked if the tribe would put that in writing to always allow her to do that. Council said no.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bert Miller and Andi Bloomfield were present to provide an update. Bert shared that the infant cribs need to be upgraded. Through the Childcare Assistance Grant, Marcella was able to purchase some. Bert thanked her for her quick response. The CDC has until December 2012 to replace the cribs.

Bert handed out their budget, if anyone would like more detail he can provide that. He also shared an outline showing what Island Enterprises is contributing to non-tribal employee kids tuition fees. Marcella does not feel it is fair to tribal members that IEI is paying for non tribal kids. She would like to see that money go to tribal members so everyone can utilize the Center. Charlene stated that when the CDC started, they were told that tribal kids always will be able to attend the CDC. This was supposed to be the new preschool. Andi stated that there was a policy in place; in order to receive the childcare subsidy members need to first go through the Childcare Grant and DSHS first to pay tuition. Andi does not turn families away, she only refers them to the Childcare Grant. Andi shared they are in the process of going through auditing families to make sure they are going through the process of getting tribal members subsidized.

Bert shared that they want to serve the kids, there are several who need to be there in the center, and are not because they don't qualify. Bert would like to discuss a way if a parent doesn't qualify for subsidy, to get them on a conditional enrollment somehow. It would take a policy change. Bert would like to spend time with Council to see how all of the tribal kids can be served. The center can accommodate 123 kids at one time; they have up to 150 enrolled because of schedules- some are part time.

Bert stated that if a family is in crisis, the child needs to be in the center. Arnold felt that it is the responsibility of the tribe on getting those kids enrolled.

Misti is bothered that the board has not created a non-profit arm yet. Arnold stated that if the Board needs to be restructured, then do it. Misti added that the Board is not working.

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Marcella stated that at the SPIPA Board meeting, she brought up head start. The reason the tribe can't have one is because there is a head start at Skokomish. There can only be one head start within an area. There is an option of a satellite program. Kathy and Marcella can meet with Skokomish and discuss this option.

Misti does not like to see tribal kids waiting to get enrolled. Bert and Andi will put together a proposal, and bring it back to Council at the next meeting.

Charlene asked about the supplies line item on their budget and inquired about janitorial service. Andi stated that they do not have that service and most centers don't anyway. Andi covers the janitorial services with her workers, they do their own cleaning. The biggest issue is maintenance. Andi puts in a lot of time on weekends to keep the place clean.

Council went in to Executive Session. Following executive session the Council took the following actions:

The golf advisory committee will immediately form, and return with recommendations and proposed bylaws for its members, terms and functions. Its purposes may be advisory and or to carry out delegated authority. The ad hoc group will return by April 28 to Council with its recommendations and proposed bylaws.

The transition to the golf superintendent and golf professional is to be implemented immediately. They will each assume their full and respective responsibilities.

The remainder of golf related decisions will be with the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council will rely on the ad hoc group pending its further development.

The Council liaison will act as liaison to the Tribal Council, however, not as a decision maker in golf related matters.

The Council will reconvene on Thursday April 21 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss golf course status, problems, solutions, and budget and project timelines.

The Council will include on its April 28 agenda a review of the liaison job description and a review of the liaison position and performance.

Approved by consensus.

Council approved by consensus \$11,000 litigation related expenses regarding exempt wells in the Johns Creek basin including coordination and support with CELP and contract for hydrological studies. Legal authorized to enter into necessary agreements.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

Rhonda Foster and Sarah Shufelt were present with an update on the Mud Bay Project. They went over the history and the revisions of the report.

Rhonda shared that there has been discussions about a Pendleton Blanket being made with the Tribal Logo on it. The blanket would cost about \$105 each, with a minimum order of 250. She thought that the tribe could sell the blankets during the Canoe Journey for \$150 each; proceeds would benefit the youth.

LITTLE CREEK OVERSIGHT BOARD

Golf Steering Committee: Bob Whitener and Mitch Corbine were present. They handed out the draft bylaws for the steering committee. The bylaws were created by LCOB. This committee will help the transition of the golf course from construction to operations. They are not looking for approval today, only for review. Council discussed the board make-up. Bobby suggested that Council appoint an ad-hoc committee just to have something in place for now. Council agreed by consensus to set up this ad-hoc committee and identify those members in the committee as they are listed in the draft by-laws. Then Council will advertise for a community member position. Charlene Krise moved to appoint Andy Whitener as the Council Representative and Arnold Cooper as the alternate on this committee. Marcella Castro seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Misti was out of the room*).

Council briefly discussed the Pendleton Blankets with Bob. He suggested that the costs can come out of the IEI Canoe Journey budget; any proceeds can go back to the budget.

LEGAL

Bruce Davies updated on the Tobin Cemetery. He handed out a beautiful write up on the history and setting of the Tobin Cemetery.

Nate Schriener was here to report on the federal income tax exempt status. He shared that recently the tax court audited another tribe and the outcome could affect all tribes. The audit was for tax exempt fish treaty related income and individuals who are tax exempt. The risk for the tribe having a tax penalty is rising.

Kevin suggested that this be reevaluated for the tribe and staff who are tax exempt. If anyone claims treaty fishing rights exemption, they need to be aware of the court decision. If a Natural Resources employee works 100% in fishing, they are fine. When it comes to Council, policy, enforcement, etc. it needs to be shown how much of their time is spent on treaty fishing related issues in order to claim treaty income. Kevin and Don will be working together to come up with a solution.

Kevin discussed the Nisqually litigation; executive session.

YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE

Whitney Jones was here on behalf of the Youth Council. She shared that the Casino and KTP is sponsoring the Olympia Reign Basketball Team. The youth council will be having a concession stand at each of the games. Whitney has been assisting them with the marketing and business

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING

experience; this is a great opportunity for the council to fund raise. The games will be held May and June at the Evergreen College. Whitney encouraged Council to attend a game and support the youth council. The youth council would like to have matching t-shirts for when they are working. Charlene added that the youth council has a budget through the MLRC. Arnold suggested having the factory buy them shirts.

Whitney brought up the General Body Meeting. She has been asked if the voting process has been changed at all; it has not. Charlene would like to see an announcement sent out stating that there will be a change in the counting process that will speed things up. It's not an electronic ballot; but paper ballot with electronic counting.

Misti asked Whitney if she resigned from the Childcare Board. Whitney said she tried to, but they did not let her until there is a replacement.

Whitney addressed the "complaint" that was brought up. She stated that Mark Allen is working on it. The grievance policy is in place for employees to be able to speak their mind.

Tonight is the candidate's forum.

Tribal Council agreed by consensus to purchase chokers made by Stella Yocash for \$145. Council also agreed to purchase handmade quilts and two beaded wallets from Virginia Beruman for a total of \$1,090. These items will be used as gifts for the 2012 Canoe Journey. The wallets will be given away at the General Body Meeting in May.

Whitney Jones asked on behalf of Ruby Fuller for assistance. Ruby would like help with purchasing a medical device. Council agreed by consensus to pay the amount of \$308.95.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.