

**SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBAL
COUNCIL MEETING
October 27, 2011**

Attendance:

Tribal Council

Dave Lopeman	Chairman
Arnold Cooper	Vice Chairman (<i>absent</i>)
Andy Whitener	Treasurer
Pete Kruger, Sr.	Secretary
Ray Peters	1st Council Member
Jim Peters	2nd Council Member (<i>left at...</i>)
Charlene Krise	3rd Council Member

Legal Counsel
Tribal Administrator
Recording Secretary

Kevin Lyon
Don Whitener
Melissa Puhn

Pete Kruger offered the opening prayer. Dave Lopeman called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m.

Cindy Facett and Karma Anderson, daughters of Frank Wokojance stopped by. Cindy shared that they have been discussing their father's property, since his passing. In the past, their parents' wishes were that the tribe owns their property someday. They would like to see if the Tribe was interested in buying the 5.1 acres, which includes the house, barn and two wells. They are having the property appraised today. Karma added that their dad was a veteran, and would like to see the house at some point used for veterans; if there are tribal veterans who need a warm place to go. That is a secondary request; their main concern is if the tribe would like the property. Council stated that the tribe is very interested. Dave told them to work with Ray Peters to get the process started.

Kim Kimble stopped by to share that he met with the Veterans Representative from Olympia. He shared that the VA has tried to connect with the tribe about getting a tribal veterans advocate to help tribal veterans. Kim shared that he is interested in that position so he can help others. He would like to set up a service officer for all veterans. Right now there are only two services officers in the area. He introduced Steve, who was the VA rep for this area, who works out of Westport for the Grays Harbor Veterans. Steve stated that he can assist the tribe in coming up with a central location for the tribal veterans.

Ray suggested that Legal can assist in starting a non-profit for the veterans to raise funds for these types of requests. Dave stated that the tribe will do, and does what they can for veterans.

Glen shared the TVR (Tribal Veterans Rep) position that many tribes have. That TVR is an employee who transports and cares for tribal veterans as needed. He stated that a TVR was never pushed, since the tribe has a clinic. He thinks Kimble was asking about the TVR position. Jim asked if the Veterans Committee would be willing to meet and create a proposal for this. Dave would like to look at the job description for the TVR and possibly pursue it further.

TRIBAL ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

Emergency Housing Policy: Katrina Story was here with some modifications to the Emergency Housing Policy. It was suggested that in the policy it stated that in order to qualify for emergency housing, the applicant must first pass a drug test, and they must also test monthly. IEI houses will be

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tested for meth upon vacating. If a tribal member is evicted from tribal housing, they are not eligible for emergency housing for five years. Ray added that emergency housing should be for emergency situations only, not negligence on the tenant. Council agreed by consensus to those modifications to the emergency housing policy.

2012 Update: Deb Meisner shared they are busy with the planning process. An RFP was sent out yesterday for mobile kitchens. She drafted a letter to Department of Ecology, for the Chairmans signature regarding the working relationship between the tribe and DOE. Deb shared that their biggest issue now is food; Muckleshoot had 24 support cooks and over 200 rotating kitchen workers. They are anticipating 8,000 meals each day. They are working on fitting in the community kitchen; experts suggest that the community kitchen should not be used. A mobile kitchen would be a lot more feasible and easier to use. Don asked about adding gravel to the landing location on the beach; Deb is working with the port as far as what their options are. Ray asked Kathy to get Kevin Dragon, Whitney Jones and Julie Owens all on the same page. He is concerned about conflict. Ray will facilitate the meeting.

Support Boat: Tully Kruger shared that he has found two other boat options. He shared the pros and cons of each boat he found. Council suggested that Tully offer the sellers \$55,000. Ray would like Kevin to assist with the negotiations.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Slocum Cemetery: Margaret Henry and Bonnie Sanchez were present to discuss the Slocum Cemetery. Margaret handed out a letter that Rhonda Foster had drafted to the Shakers, for the Chairmans signature. Margaret shared that she attended a meeting with the Shakers and they asked for an explanation as to why the Slocum Cemetery was moved. She shared with them that the tribe is not in the business of moving cemeteries, but that one in particular was in danger with the gravel pit expanding next to it. The Shakers are now wanting to move Mary Slocum, from the Shelton Cemetery to be next to her husband, John Slocum in the Squaxin Cemetery. Margaret shared that decision should be up to the family. Ray feels strongly against moving a gravesite. Jim added that if anything was to be moved, it would be a decision of the Slocum descendents, not Council. Bonnie shared that she is the great great granddaughter of John and Mary Slocum. She shared that Mary is buried in Shelton with her daughter and rest of her family. She believes that John and Mary would not want Mary moved; as a descendent Bonnie wishes to leave Mary in peace.

Council approved the letter to be signed by Dave, with the changes suggested by Andy.

PLANNING

Elizabeth Egan presented two grant application resolutions. The first **Resolution #11-74** authorizes the submission of a grant thorough US Department of Agriculture Food Distribution to provide assistance to qualified low income tribal members.

The second **Resolution #11-75** authorizes the submission of a grant through US Department of HHS for funding to provide direct energy assistance to low income tribal members.

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LIAISON UPDATE

DNR Letter of intent: Ray shared a letter from DNR regarding the Island land transaction. Council agreed by consensus to the letter, with Legal review.

NCAI Sponsorship: Council approved a donation of \$5,000 for a breakout sponsorship at NCAI. Council also approved a donation of \$2,000 to help sponsor ATNI Culture Night.

Ray provided an update on the Dahman Property.

Ray provided a report on his recent trip to Washington DC regarding water litigation. The tribe should be hearing back within the next month regarding this case. The discussions went well.

Ray handed out a flier for the Denny Heck fundraiser which will be held during NCAI. Ray will attend.

Charlene shared that there are staff attending NCAI for the culture night; can they receive administrative leave for attending. Council told her to work it out with Don.

LEGAL

Kevin brought up the Department of Fish & Wildlife hunting issue. Kevin asked if anyone would like to be involved with the discussions. Dave, Pete and Charlene are all interested; Kevin will coordinate.

Kevin handed out the Natural Resources Building Bank of America Loan documents for the Chairman to sign.

Ray reported that the Munroe property will be appraised. Kevin handed out Legals recommendation on what appraiser to go with. Council approved the recommendation by Legal and would like Ray to continue pursuing the property.

TRIBAL ELDERS

Steve Witcraft was present, along with many of the tribal elders: Glen Parker, Myrtle Richards, Sam Penn, Virginia Farron, Laretta Case, Lila Jacobs, John Briggs, Rose Brownfield, Sherry Johns, Herb Johns, Don Brownfield, Carolyn Hoosier, Margaret Witcraft, George Witcraft, Ron Daily, Elizabeth Heredia and Linda Lake. Steve read a letter, prepared by the elders regarding their concerns with the change of their program. Steve thanked Council for the generosity and seeking for a solution of an issue. They appreciated the makeover of the exterior of their building. The interior is about to be painted but the elders, who use the building, were not consulted of the color. The elders feel that they are not kept in mind with the changes that are made to their program. They do not appreciate the elder coordinator (Colleen Woodard) being removed from her office, and replaced with someone new. The elders now feel like they are being supervised. Colleen feels managed and looked over. The elders did not appreciate an opportunity to comment on these changes.

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Don asked the elders, if since this change has occurred, has the kitchen status improved (food quality and quantity). Steve felt that the food program has much improved and is making money now. Charlene asked about the food delivery to the elders. Virginia Farron shared that she used to deliver food to elders who requested it. She did not mind delivering food to those who were bedridden or sick, but did not appreciate delivering food to elders who were capable of getting their own lunch, but just didn't want to. It didn't make sense to her that food is delivered to those who were able to get around on their own.

Steve suggested that the Elders Inc. take over the office on the craft side of the building and the supervisor move in to the office on the dining side of the building. That way, the elders would not feel like they are being watched.

Elizabeth Heredia shared that these issues came up at the last elders meeting. She added that the issues are not with Colleen or Janita; but more about the active elders who use the building. Some of the concerns were about how quickly the new supervisor was placed, and how she was placed in Colleen's office. The crafts were moved to a smaller area and their craft time was disrupted. All of the changes just made for an uncomfortable situation. The elders feel they are being managed and supervised in their own building. They like the idea of moving Janita to the opposite side of the building, that way she can use the space by the fireplace to do her weigh-ins and meet with her other groups (other visitors) without disrupting the elders quiet room.

Dave shared that Don will meet with the elders and those involved, and fix the issues. Dave agrees that the food in the past was not that great and hopes its gotten better. Steve shared that the food has improved. Steve and Don will work this out. Council thanked Steve for sharing the thoughts of the elders.

Elizabeth thanked Council for all they have done for their elders, including the host luncheon which was a huge success.

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Art Constantino, Zoltan Grosman and Tina Kukkhuan were here to share that the US Board of Geological Names accepted their application to rename "Squaw Point" to "Bushoowah-ahlee Point." They worked closely with the Tribe to research the ancestral name and this was the suggestion.

Zoltan shared that they felt the old name was disrespectful and wanted to educate on the traditional language.

Tina shared their appreciation of the tribe working with TESC. They would like to plan a naming ceremony in the spring. Ray suggested that Tina work with Charlene on planning this event.

Zoltan shared that they have a Native Student Alliance on campus. They are interested in assisting with the 2012 Canoe Journey activities. Zoltan stated that they can start preparing some of the students by teaching them cultural respect and possibly have them volunteer as needed. Charlene said they are definitely interested, and will need a lot of volunteers.

LEGAL

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Kevin provided **Resolution #11-76** which approves the Bank of America Financing for the Natural Resources Building. Legal has gone through the USDA Loan Package; negotiated all necessary documents and everything is ready. Ray Peters moved to approve the loan documents and Resolution #11-76. Pete Kruger seconded the motion. The motion carried four (4) in favor and zero (0) against (*Pete and Jim were absent*).

Kevin handed out the probate code.

Kevin provided the contamination code change; if there is a risk of contamination of tribal property, the health officer will proceed. The property will remain sealed until tested clean.

Don brought up the tribe purchasing trust land; Don checked that if the tribe purchases trust property, the tribe can keep it in trust.

TRIBAL MEMBER REQUEST

Alexi Vigil was present regarding her house. She handed out a letter she wrote to Council. Council will consider her request in Executive Session and get back to her.

UNITED WAY

Barb Dunbar, John Sutterstrom and John Gorman were here with United Way. Barb shared that they are looking for support from all tribal entities. They would like to be invited to staff meetings, and do a short presentation on United Way. 85% of the funds they raise stay in Mason County. They attend staff functions to encourage and invite staff to donate via payroll deduct on a regular basis. They would be happy to help with workplace campaign at the tribal government, Island Enterprises and Little Creek Casino (*Mitch Corbine and Bob Whitener were present*).

ISLAND ENTERPRISES

Bob Whitener Jr. was here regarding a change that needs to be made to the Island Enterprises Board. He suggested changing Ray and Andy's positions to alternates, instead of members. Council agreed by consensus.

There being no further business, the October 27th meeting adjourned.