

Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns
Historic Preservation Division
254 Washington Street SW
Ground Level
Minutes
Regular Monthly Meeting
November 13, 2013 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Present: McCormick, Wallsmith, Nicklas, McCrary, Kirkland, Crews, Altman
Guests: McCormick, Powis, Nicklas' student, DNR employees

Invocation -- McCrary

Approval of October, 2013 minutes – Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Budget finally received. \$15,000 received, 2,219.44 spent YTD.

Communications to the Council

Emails via web site - Nealie McCormick – possible grave site, Nicklas followed up, no reply.

Telephone calls – Debbie Wallsmith – Phone call re: cattle trampling graves in the Bartow County area. McCormick is following up.

Mail -- None that requires action

Dig/Discovery Notifications – Heidi Altman – Two HR discoveries:

- 1) St. Catherine's Island; Discussion about the St. Catherine's Island site. Bryan Tucker will invite David Hurst Thomas to come talk to the Council about the future of the remains from St. Catherine's.
- 2) The Dabbs Site (Terry Powis, archaeologist, will be present at the Council meeting to discuss mitigation strategies for this site, which is on private land.

New Business

Visitor, Jim Langford: Head of the Coosawattee Foundation. Gave a discussion of the history of the legislation put forth by the foundation. Today he presents an archaeological site, near Cartersville, an early occupation site down river from Etowah. On private/commercial land, supportive landowner, etc. A pit with human remains was discovered recently. The land will continue to be disturbed. The Foundation advocates removing the remains to ensure that they are no longer disturbed by cultivation. Photographs presented to the council. The Foundation proposes to take control of the remains, to prevent further disturbance or looting. The Foundation will also keep the remains at the University of Georgia. The plan is to remove the burial Saturday 11/16/2013. McCormick requested that Langford report back in January.

Two new members, Kirkland and Crews were sworn in since the last meeting

Ongoing Business

1. Discussion of the disposition materials curated at West Georgia. Ongoing consultation with Muscogee Creeks and others. Bryan Tucker: There was a meeting with representatives of the Muscogee Nation, Coushatta, and Absentee Shawnee: repatriation to include all human remains and associated artifacts to be returned to Mound C, which was once completely destroyed and re-constructed. Meetings are to be scheduled the first two weeks of December to begin the extensive negotiations about the process. *Update:* Tucker reports that they will be trying to schedule meetings in February with all of the tribal towns and the Muscogee Nation.
2. . Request from Robins Air Force Base – Crews will follow up. Ongoing.
3. Requests from DHS concerning meeting on Indian child welfare act – October 23, all day meetings at GaTech Conference Center. Judge Mantz will be there representing the GA Supreme Court. McCormick will participate and follow up. McCormick will call Weaver for additional input. *Update:* ICWA meeting at Georgia Tech postponed until February.
4. Rock shelter in Hall County – Nicklas: will make a response and provide a full report in November. The area will be developed into a park, and there were two positive shovel tests (debitage). Tucker reports that the State Archeologist was contacted first and that there was no need to pursue this since the Park Manager says that there is no danger of development to the rock shelters themselves. Phase I by Brockington (?). *Update:* Nicklas followed up with the woman who reported this site. She feels strongly that the things that have been found thus far justify further investigation. Tucker reports that there was an article in the Gainesville paper, and he spoke with the reporter. The reporter represented DNR fairly. Tucker and Nicklas both discussed the details with her. She wants the site to be afforded 106 status so that it could be better protected. She also reports that there is a cemetery there with a gravestone dated from the 1870s.
5. Requests from Powers Ferry elementary school – 4th grade teacher trying to study early history. We will try to develop materials to provide to teachers that are in keeping with the Georgia Standards. Kirkland will try to find out who we need to talk to in the DOE, McCormick and Altman will try to meet with the person in November. *Update:* We will try to meet with Pamela Smith and Shaun Owens in January. In the process of setting a date.

Brief discussion of the history of the Council by McCormick and request that we all examine the enabling legislation that founded the Council. Indian Commission + Office of Indian Heritage -> Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns.

Announcements.

None

Adjourned at 2:40.