

Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns
Historic Preservation Division
254 Washington Street SW
Ground Level
MINUTES
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 8, 2014 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Present: McCormick, Wallsmith, Nicklas, McCrary, Kirkland, Crews, Altman, Pettite

Guests:

Invocation -- McCrary

Approval of November, 2013, minutes – Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Budget finally received. McCormick to follow up on new budget.

Communications to the Council

Emails via web site - Nealie McCormick –

1. An Individual reported the theft of some artifacts from a battlefield, including historic and prehistoric component.
2. Request to add a link to the Council website to a resource guide for educational financial aid for tribal members and others.
3. Requests for McCormick to speak at schools re: Indian history. Pettite agreed to do some community presentations for schools, etc.

Telephone calls – Debbie Wallsmith –

1. Over the Christmas holiday there were several calls in one day asking who to send information to regarding ICWA. Returned voicemail to send it to the council via DNR.
2. Another call regarding membership in the North Georgia Cherokees.

Mail – one letter requesting assistance in finding an attorney and other assistance.

McCormick will reply.

Dig/Discovery Notifications – None

New Business

Council visitor: Walt Knapp. Discussed the development of a Native American History program at University of North Georgia.

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. *Update:* Meeting in OK date postponed again, but the THPO's office representatives will be in GA next month and will visit the conservation/curation lab. Request for repatriation of a child burial from New Echota by the EBCI. A historic burial and all three federally recognized tribes are in agreement that the EBCI should be the respondent.
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. *Update:* Ongoing.
 4. 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. *Update:* Discussion of preparing materials to provide to schools (possibly based on existing materials) and discussion of individuals from the council to go give talks at schools.
 5. 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. *Update:* None.
 6. David Hurst Thomas may be able to visit in April or May to give a report on St. Catherine's Island.

Announcements.

A couple of articles.

Adjourned @ 2:15.