

Georgia Council on American Indian Concerns
Historic Preservation Division
254 Washington Street SW
Ground Level
Minutes
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 11, 2014 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order: Present: McCormick, Wallsmith, McCrary, Kirkland, Crews, Altman, Petite
Guests: McCormick, Alleyne,

Invocation – Crews

Approval of April 9, 2014 and May 14, 2014, minutes – both unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – \$1851.85 left to spend immediately. Discussion of expenses at New Echota (digital camera) and Etowah (interpretive panel). Motion to spend seconded and passed.

Communications to the Council

Emails via web site - Nealie McCormick –

1. McCormick received a request for advice about a collection of materials in Habersham County. Wallsmith will talk to the requester about donating the materials to the Sautee Nacoochee Community Center.
2. McCormick received a request for information regarding the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees (FOIA). Sent a copy of the study on the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokees to attorney Clint Teston for his client.

Telephone calls – Debbie Wallsmith –

1. Call from a man reporting that his neighbor is “illegally digging an Indian burial mound.” The man wouldn’t identify himself so there was nothing that could be done.
2. A call from a woman who wanted to inquire about Mohawk status transferability from Canada to the US.

Mail – Request from a prisoner in SC for religious materials. Nealie will refer to SC.

Dig/Discovery Notifications – Heidi Altman

Burial Discovery, Newell Creek, Ossabaw Island (see attached letter). The archaeologists will move the remains back from the erosion zone and repatriate in place.

New Business

1. The website is being updated and needs new photos. Photos to be taken at the close of the meeting.
2. There are new developments in the ICWA policies. McCormick will meet with M. Alleyne and colleagues from DHS and Judge Mantz via telephone to finish up edits on Georgia’s policies related to ICWA.

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. *Update:* Bryan Tucker has spoken to Ashley Smallwood at UWG and will continue to try to move the various unprovenienced individuals to UWG. Meeting over New Echota, EBCI will do GPR to find a spot for the child reburial. The Etowah meeting was postponed for weather. Tabled until further action.
2. 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. *Update:* Last month the Council had an ICWA Policy discussion with guest Menelik Alleyne: He is an attorney from DHS who is charged with ensuring that ICWA policies are met, and to develop protocols and policies for GA. Wants to consult with the Council on an ongoing basis to make sure that the state takes good care of native children, especially in the counties where there are tribes. In addition, there was discussion of monies available/awarded for native youth, that are not being spent for native young adults. *Update:* McCormick will meet with M. Alleyne, colleagues from DHS and Judge Mantz via telephone to finish up edits on Georgia's policies related to ICWA. A final policy should be available at the August meeting.
3. 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. *Update:* Langford will come to the August Council meeting.
4. David Hurst Thomas may be able to visit in April or May to give a report on St. Catherine's Island. *Update:* None. *Update:* Wallsmith to follow up with Hurst Thomas. *Update:* Hurst Thomas will not be able to come until the fall.

Announcements.:

Report from the journal Nature about the Neandertal origins for the haplotype for Type II diabetes.

Tom Gresham sent a completed report on the looted Gertrude site in Burke County. Moved, seconded and approved for the Council to handle the duplication and distribution of the report.

Adjourned: 2:25.