

Council on American Indian Concerns
Regular Monthly Meeting, December 12, 2007
Conference Room, DNR Office Complex, Atlanta

Council members in attendance: Nealie McCormick, Marilyn McGaughey, Tom Gresham, Ralph Crews, Sarah Hill, and Royce McCrary

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:35 pm. Ralph Crews led the opening prayer.

The November, 2007 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members, were approved with no corrections.

The minutes of the called meeting of November 26, 2007 were approved with a correction of the last paragraph, which should state that the three copies of the report would be hand delivered to the Governor's office. In discussion it was confirmed that the three copies had been hand delivered by Marilyn McGaughey and Sarah Hill.

Invited guest Michael Chadwell, applications group manager for DNR and the new webmaster for the Council's web page, introduced himself and explained briefly how he has completely restructured our web page. Members commented that the site is now easy to pull up and navigate. We agreed that new content will be sent to Michael only through Sarah Hill. Nealie asked if current events could be posted, and Michael said yes, but that someone (Sarah) will need to review our web page periodically and inform him of events that have passed and should be deleted. In response to a comment that the restructured site hasn't appeared yet, he related that users generally need to refresh the web site by pressing the F5 key, or else the computer will bring up a stored (and unmodified) version. We agreed to place Council minutes on the site, and Tom Gresham will send them as PDF files directly to Michael after they have been approved. We plan to keep many years worth of minutes on the website. We established that the Council's new address at Panola Mountain needs to be on the site. The Council's new address is:

Council on American Indian Concerns
c/o Historic Sites Region Office
2600 Highway 155, SW
Suite D
Stockbridge, GA 30281

In closing remarks, Michael Chadwell said that DNR is currently soliciting in the private sector for web support services and some aspects of how we update and maintain our site may change.

Nealie McCormick informed the Council that Henry Flood has recommended that we make PDF files of all the documentation he gathered in relation to the parties claiming to be the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee. A motion passed to spend up to \$500 for this purpose. Discussion followed about how the Council can work with or provide assistance to the various factions. Nealie agreed to speak with representatives in other states to see how they work with

non-tribal Indian groups and then report back to the Council.

Tom Gresham asked if the Council had received a letter from the Society for Georgia Archaeology soliciting a \$500 contribution for Archaeology Month 2008. Pam Meditz and Nealie McCormick were not aware of having received it. Tom stated that such a letter was sent in November and the Council needs to decide how to respond. Tom noted that our contribution for 2007 was actually paid from FY 2008 funds because the issuance of the check was much delayed. As a result, if we agree to sponsor the event again, we must make two payments in one fiscal year. Pam Meditz noted that another 2007 expense was paid in 2008 funds. A discussion of Council finances concluded with an agreement for Pam to provide an accounting of our FY 2008 expenses and pass it along to treasurer Ralph Crews. The main objective is to see how much has been spent so far this year.

Marilyn McGaughey raised the topic of our Rules and Regulations, pointing out that we had done considerable work on them in 2004 and 2005 but they had never been formally adopted. There was discussion about exactly what steps were taken in 2004 and at what point in the process we stopped. We recalled that we had completed many requirements with guidance from the DNR attorney's office (John Walden, specifically), but that the final procedures were never completed. Royce McCrary then looked through his sets of Council minutes and confirmed that we had complied with our responsibilities and that the DNR attorney's office must shepherd the documents through official channels. Tom Gresham agreed to assemble all minutes related to the process so that at the January meeting we can discuss how to move forward.

Regarding news items about American Indians, Marilyn McGaughey mentioned a recent article in *Science News* stating that new genetics studies confirm that Canada and South America were populated mainly via Alaska and the Bering land bridge. She also noted an *AJC* article about a proposed civil rights museum in Atlanta and wondered if we should make contact with the project's backers. We agreed that it is probably too early to make contact.

Nelialie McCormick reported that the Annual Governors' Interstate Indian Council conference at Lake Tahoe was informative. There were discussions on a range of issues relating to American Indians and several important resolutions were passed.

Royce McCrary related that the tour of King's Bay Naval Base and the base's celebration of Native American Heritage Day were very enjoyable. Nealie McCormick pointed out that the event garnered good press coverage in the base newspaper. Those who attended agreed that the base was an excellent host of the tour and the following luncheon, and that Ralph and Frances Crews represented the Council well.

In new business, Marilyn McGaughey asked whether the Council had been notified that trees were being cut on the Etowah mounds. While she did not object to the cutting, she would like DNR to inform the Council of activities that affect major Indian sites. The Council concurred and Frankie Mewborn agreed to notify the Council in the future. Marilyn then suggested that the site managers or representatives of state historic sites with a Native American focus meet with the Council annually, as practicable, to exchange ideas and information. The Council concurred and Frankie Mewborn agreed to initiate arrangements. Nealie McCormick

expressed the Council's great appreciation for all that DNR does to assist the Council with its mission.

The Council acknowledged with sympathy the unexpected death of Karen Burns' husband Larry.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Pam Meditz, Dan and Dola Davis, Frances Crews, Gisela Gresham, Vonnie McCormick, Michael Chadwell, Royce McCrary's son.