

Council on American Indian Concerns
Regular Monthly Meeting, January 9, 2008
Conference Room, DNR Office Complex, Atlanta

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

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

The December, 2007 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members, were approved after a minor rewording of the paragraph about DNR-Council communications.

Treasurer Ralph Crews presented the Treasurer's report. For completed FY 2007, we spent \$8,273 of the allocated \$27,500. In FY 2008 (to date), we have spent \$7,460. Pam Meditz pointed out that some expenses incurred in FY 2007 were not paid until FY 2008.

Sarah Hill then led a discussion about our web site, with webmaster Michael Chadwell present to answer questions. Bobby Tuggle agreed to continue assembling a recommended reading/book list for the site and Tom Gresham agreed to submit minutes of Council meetings in PDF format. Marilyn McGaughey and Vonnie McCormick will assemble referral information regarding social services, and Sarah Hill will include a notice that the Council does not handle such services or requests for services. Nealie McCormick asked that the site include a section on resources for school teachers.

Marilyn McGaughey led a discussion of our Rules and Regulations (R&R). She has discussed our situation with Coral White at the Secretary of State's office. As indicated in an email Marilyn sent to Council members, the Council was given a chapter number for our R&R in 2004-2005 but no further progress was made and nothing was filed with Coral White. Tom Gresham handed out a compilation of all minutes referring to our R&R, which span from January 8, 2003 to December 14, 2005. There was some discussion about how and where the process broke down in 2005. Since the R&R must be submitted in a specific format, Nealie McCormick will ask DNR attorney Emily Hitchcock to help us find someone to type the document and help with the whole process. Marilyn McGaughey pledged to get this matter in proper order and she and Sarah Hill will work with Emily Hitchcock to ensure that the process will now be completed. They will keep the Council informed.

Neele McCormick addressed the issue of possible Council initiatives with non-tribal groups in the state. He reported that he has spoken with representatives of the Indian commissions in Alabama and North Carolina and they are sending him information about their powers and duties, particularly as regards non-tribal groups. We will review the information at the next meeting.

Tom Gresham stated that the Society for Georgia Archaeology is soliciting the Council for a \$500 contribution to Archaeology Month 2008. On a motion by Ralph Crews seconded by

Bobby Tuggle, the Council approved this expenditure. Pam Meditz asked Tom Gresham to have the SGA send her an invoice for the \$500.

Regarding recent news items about American Indians, Marilyn McGaughey mentioned an AJC article about the dispute among groups claiming to be the Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee. Bobby Tuggle distributed a response to the AJC article by Richard Allen of the Cherokee Nation, which protests any state recognition of tribes. Tom Gresham briefly discussed a cover story in CFO magazine about the Historical Accounting Project, which is the government's on-going attempt to account for mismanaged individual Indian accounts held in trust by the U.S. government. JB Jones mentioned that Murphy Miller was recently sworn in as a Superior Court judge in north Georgia, and at the occasion Mr. Miller cited his Cherokee heritage.

Sarah Hill moved the re-election of the current slate of officers, seconded by Royce McCrary. No other nominations were brought forward and the current officers (Nealie McCormick Chair, Marilyn McGaughey Vice-chair, Tom Gresham Secretary and Ralph Crews Treasurer) were re-elected.

In new business, Pam Meditz distributed a letter and form from the State Ethics Commission requiring Council members to file electronically a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement before July 1, 2008 for calendar year 2007. The notarized form is submitted by mail and then an access code for electronic filing will be provided to each Council member.

Marilyn McGaughey thanked Pam Meditz for emailing the Council photographs of the tree clearing at Etowah Mounds. It was agreed that the tree clearing enhances the historical accuracy and visitors' experience of the mounds.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Pam Meditz, Christine Neal, Walker Dan Davis, Joe Davis, Sharon Housley, Frances Crews, Vonnie McCormick, Michael Chadwell