

Council on American Indian Concerns
Regular Monthly Meeting, March 12, 2008
Conference Room, DNR Office Complex, Atlanta

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

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

Approval of the February, 2008 meeting minutes was tabled until the April meeting because the minutes had not been sent to members for review. Secretary Gresham will email both February and March minutes to members prior to the April meeting.

Sarah Hill submitted a written brief review of our web site development and webmaster Michael Chadwell was present to add to the report. Sarah first reported that responsibility for addressing email questions posted to our web page has been transferred to her, via a hidden link. No questions have been received since the last meeting. She reported that several new Native American web sites have been added as links and that she has edited the genealogy page, the American Indian sites in Georgia page, and the form for submitting questions to the Council. John Worth's paper/primer on historic period Indian history in Georgia and recent sets of Council minutes have been added. We have also purchased a new domain name (georgiaindiancouncil.org) for \$18 per year. Finally, many search terms have been added, to allow people to find our page through terms such as Cherokee, Creek or Indians. Michael Chadwell suggested that Kar Burns could email a photo of herself that he could post so that we would have photos of all Council members. Tom Gresham will email Kar about this.

Pam Meditz reported on progress with our adoption of Rules and Regulations (R&R). She stated that no one in DNR is completely familiar with the process, but that she, Paul Nelson and others will be working on it one step at a time in coordination with Marilyn McGaughey and Sarah Hill. She said there is a question about whether the DNR Board needs to review and/or approve our R&R. Paul Nelson will help arrange the public meetings. She said that the Historic Sites Region is reorganizing and that this has slowed work on the R&R. One item that the Council needs to address is developing a stakeholders list to which notice of our R&R would be sent. We identified the following stakeholder entities:

- The three state tribes
- Office of the State Archaeologist
- Society for Georgia Archaeology
- Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists
- Trail of Tears Association
- State Museums, such as Stone Mountain and the one in Roberta
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Principal associations of developers
- Regional Development Center offices
- HPD's list of federal tribes

Nealie McCormick reported that the Council had received a request from Darlene Walker in Barrow County to investigate a possible burial disturbance. Tom Gresham glanced at the request form and said that the prehistoric archeological site in question was one that his company had discovered and reported during a survey for a proposed electrical transmission line. The form cites the presence of Indian artifacts, but no specific evidence for burials. Since this is a project that is going through Section 106 review by state and federal agencies, the Council agreed to send Mrs. Walker a letter thanking her for her concern and stating that we are satisfied with the scrutiny the site will receive during the Section 106 process. Tom and Nealie will prepare the letter.

Nealie McCormick asked Vonnie McCormick to report on an economic development conference that she attended last month in Las Vegas that was sponsored by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. She said over 3,000 participants attended seminars and workshops. The Poarch Band of Creek won an award for their start-up metal working shop. There was a great deal of information on ways to promote and develop businesses on and near tribal lands.

Marilyn McGaughey initiated a presentation on recent news items about Indians, which included stories about a recently discovered dugout canoe that is now at Fernbank, President Bush's acknowledgment of the government's lateness in awarding the Medal of Honor to a Sioux Indian for his service in the Korean War, Australia's apology for their policy of removing aboriginal children from their homes to acculturate them in government schools, the denial of Medicare benefits to an Indian woman because she could not prove her citizenship, a new DNA study that shows greater diversity in the founder population of the New World, the Hopewell Treaty, blood laws and the Cherokee government, and anti-tax movements that claim Indian heritage and tribal affiliation/autonomy to avoid paying taxes.

In new business, Nealie McCormick reported that the Council received a request from the firm EDAW for the location of archeological sites near Columbus so that county planners can avoid them. This prompted a short discussion of the issue of site protection and disclosure of site location information. It was agreed that other entities, such as the Georgia Archaeological Site Files, would be better suited to respond to this request.

Ralph Crews presented the treasurer's report, stating that we have spent \$10,624, which is about 38 percent of our FY2008 budget. At an average of about \$650 per meeting, we are projected to spend about \$13,000 for the year. Our annual allocation is \$27,500. Marilyn suggested that we all think about the goals and objectives of the Council and identify any unmet needs that would require funding from our account. We will discuss possible expenditures at the next meeting. Pam Medtitz added that accounting rules have tightened regarding encumbering money, saying that such encumbering must be very specific to a vendor and a task. This raised the issue of whether we need to renew or reissue contracts with consulting archeologists who in the past have investigated reports of possible burial disturbances for us.

Marilyn McGaughey also suggested that we discuss our calendar for the coming year at the April meeting, particularly regarding special meetings and events.

Marilyn McGaughey then asked a series of questions about how many telephone calls, letters and emails the Council receives and how these are handled. Pam said there have been four communications in the past few weeks, and all were turned over to Nealie McCormick. Nealie said that many of these were simple issues that he dealt with. Marilyn requested that all telephone calls be logged in and emails kept so that there is a full and organized compilation of our communications.

Marilyn McGaughey also asked about the mechanics of our funding. Pam Meditz replied that we are funded as part of the Office of Planning and Budget and that through an annual contract, the funds are transferred to a special Council account within DNR. Pam provided the Council with a copy of the most recent OPB-DNR contract for funding the Indian Council.

Pam Meditz then reported on the printing of additional copies of our two brochures, one a general brochure about the Council (last updated in 2007) and the second an artifact collecting information sheet last updated about ten years ago. The Historic Sites Region recommends printing about 275 copies of the general brochure and 1,400 of the artifact collecting brochure. Pam will look into retyping or scanning the collecting brochure. Tom Gresham gave Pam several needed changes to the brochure that the office of the State Archeologist had provided. These reflect recent changes to the laws enacted by the General Assembly. Tom and Pam will work on getting these two brochures reprinted.

Vonnie McCormick reported that Eloise Josie of the Alabama Indian Commission was injured in a traffic accident and suggested the Council send her a card. Nealie McCormick said he would take care of this.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Pam Meditz, Michael Chadwell, Christine Neal, and Vonnie McCormick