

Council on American Indian Concerns  
Minutes

Regular Monthly Meeting, June 11, 2008  
Swan Coach House, Atlanta

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nealie McCormick at 1:34 pm. Ralph Crews led the opening prayer.

The May 2008 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved with no corrections.

*Ongoing Business*

Pam Meditz reviewed the previous month's log of three telephone calls to the Council. One call concerned general issues and the caller was directed to our web site; a call about minority businesses was referred to Nealie McCormick; and a call regarding state tribe recognition was directed to Nealie, who sent the caller a copy of our white paper on tribal recognition. Sarah Hill then reviewed the month's emails sent to the Council website. One was a request from Fort Gordon for more of our artifact collecting brochures, which Pam will send, and the remaining emails concerned ancestry and enrollment, which Sarah handled.

Pam Meditz then reviewed the current status of our rules and regulations, reporting that Marilyn McGaughey and Sarah Hill reviewed the draft that she edited and condensed from the 2005 draft. Pam will continue to check with officials to keep the initiative on track.

Pam Meditz reported that the revised general Council brochure and the revised artifact collecting brochure are both at the printer and will be ready for the next meeting. We are printing 500 of the former and 2,000 of the latter.

Tom Gresham stated that on May 28, 2008 he transferred, on behalf of the Council, approximately 35 boxes of human remains and burial objects and their associated records from the DNR Preservation Laboratory at Panola Mountain State Park to the Antonio J. Waring Archaeological Laboratory at the University of West Georgia, in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Council and the Waring Lab. The Waring Lab acknowledged receipt and will now look through the materials to verify contents and repackage as needed.

Pam Meditz reminded Council members that individual ethics reports to the state are due by July 1, 2008.

In news items, Tom Gresham reported that he represented the Council at a June 10th photo opportunity where Governor Perdue signed the Archaeology Month proclamation. The Council has long been a co-sponsor of Archaeology Month.

### *New Business*

Nealie McCormick stated that the economic development committee (JB Jones, Ralph Crews, and Nealie) was working on several initiatives that may bring development projects to areas of Georgia where Indian populations are concentrated. He hopes to have more concrete news to report at the next meeting.

Tom Gresham related that state archeologist David Crass informed the Council of erosion of another Indian burial from the bluff edge at the south end of Ossabaw Island, in the same general area where others had recently eroded. Dr. Crass asked for ideas and financial help with this ongoing problem. He requested money for a remote sensing survey (ground penetrating radar) of the bluff edge to determine the number and location of other burials and excavation of the presently eroding burial. The estimated cost for the GPR survey is \$5,000. No estimate was given for cost of the burial excavation. Council members observed that because we are near the end of the fiscal year we do not have adequate funding for the request. The Council agreed that Tom Gresham will talk to Dr. Crass about the issue's technical aspects and that Nealie McCormick will talk to him about financial matters. Ralph Crews asked that in the future all Council members receive copies of communications sent to the Council. Tom agreed to send Ralph a copy of the letter from Dr. Crass.

Marilyn McGaughey suggested that the minutes include the Council's accomplishments for the past year, partly to assist with the preparation of the annual report that is due in August. The following list was compiled:

1. Analysis and report on factions contending to be the state-recognized Georgia Tribe of Eastern Cherokee was completed, reviewed by Attorney General's office and delivered to Governor.
2. Completion of the process to promulgate the Council's Rules and Regulations was initiated.
3. Grants were given to Society for Georgia Archaeology for Archaeology Month; Fernbank Museum to enhance displays and interpretation of Native American collections; Etowah Mounds State Historic Site to assist with a native grasses project and to erect an interpretive sign about a replica house; Chief Vann House to assist with purchasing and clothing two manikins in period clothing; and the Department of Natural Resources to hire a physical anthropologist to assist with NAGPRA related skeletal identifications.
4. The Council web site was updated and enhanced. A system was developed for Council members to respond to questions submitted through the website. A system was devised to log and report each telephone call and web mail question and to track responses to both.
5. Two Council brochures (general and artifact collecting) were revised and reprinted.
6. Human remains and burial objects in our care were inventoried and transferred to Antonio J. Waring Laboratory at the University of West Georgia.
7. We represented Georgia at the Governor's Interstate Indian Council conference.

The Council discussed its current and 2009 budget. In order to plan ahead and properly allocate funds for special needs, we asked Pam to calculate routine annual expenses including regular meeting expenses, annual planning meetings, Interstate Governors Conference, and donations to Archaeology Month. She will try to have the estimates at the next meeting.

Marilyn McGaughey raised the question of canceling two meetings to conserve energy and save money. After some discussion, the Council agreed by vote that we will not meet in July or December of this calendar year, but otherwise will continue regular monthly meetings in Atlanta.

Nealie McCormick announced that new information about the 2010 census had been posted on the census web site.

The attendees thanked Marilyn McGaughey for arranging the meeting and the preceding luncheon.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Visitors: Frankie Mewborn, Katelyn Mewborn, Pam Meditz, Linda and Clint Moye, Michael Chadwell, Vonnie McCormick, Gisela Gresham, Frances Crews, Ann Williams, Tom Brewer