

Council on American Indian Concerns

Regular Monthly Meeting, November 18, 2009
DNR Conference Room, Atlanta

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

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

The October, 2009 meeting minutes, which had been emailed to members earlier, were approved as submitted.

The treasurer's report for the current year, FY 2010, was read by Ralph Crews, who reported that \$2,447.71 of expenses have been posted to date. Nealie McCormick reported that the contract between the Office of Planning and Budget and the Department of Natural Resources for the operation of the Indian Council in FY 2010 was signed by OPB this morning and was sent to DNR. Marilyn McGaughey requested that a copy of the contract be sent to the Council as soon as it had been processed by DNR.

Sarah Hill, who had emailed copies of the web mail to Council members in advance of the meeting, affirmed that we received mostly routine email inquiries in the past month. Frankie Mewborn reported on an email questioning the legitimacy and authenticity of Chippa Wolf and his Rolling Thunder Productions; he had recently given a public performance that offended some audience members. We agreed that monitoring such performances is the responsibility of the contracting venue. Linda Moye had emailed the previous month's telephone log which identified one routine phone call. Nealie McCormick mentioned that the Complete Count committee for the 2010 census wants the Council to help raise awareness of the importance of everyone's participation. Nealie will pass along information he receives to Sarah Hill so that she can post it on the Council web site. We agreed that we should contact Kennesaw State University history professor Dr. Alan LeBaron (alebaron@kennesaw.edu; 770.423.6589), who works with Guatemalan Indians living in Georgia. He spoke at the February, 2007 Council meeting about his work.

New Business

Tom Gresham reported that he and three volunteers from his company (Jerald Ledbetter, Ron Schoettmer and Gisela Gresham) met DNR Ranger Jeff Billips at the looted shell midden site on the Ogeechee River in Burke County on October 27, 2009 and collected about 47 pounds of bone, 56 pounds of stone and 82 pounds of pottery from the surface of the looted area. Tom stated that he asked two Athens-area archeologists for cost estimates to minimally analyze the bone, stone and pottery and summarize the results in a short report. The estimate was \$4,500.00. Tom said that additional work, in the form of possible C-14 dates of sooted sherds and more

thorough reporting and comparative analysis, would be desirable. Discussion ensued about whether and how the Council could get reimbursed for its expenses through Court-imposed fines against the looters. Ranger Billips indicated the possibility of such reimbursement. One concern was how such fines would get routed to the Council rather than to general State coffers. Frankie Mewborn said he would check into how the funds could be directed to the Council. The Council asked Tom to document the existing (for two trips to the site) and projected (for analysis) expenses on Council letterhead for presentation to the District Attorney who is prosecuting the case. In discussion about how the Council and DNR might divide the projected \$4,500.00 minimal expense if there is no reimbursement from the Court, a motion was made for the Council to assume \$3,000.00 of the expense, leaving \$1,500.00 for DNR (David Crass).

Tom Gresham reported that human remains and burial objects that were excavated nearly a decade ago from several burials at the Hickory Log site in Canton (now the location of a Wal-Mart) were reburied on Monday in a City-owned park. The reburials are not marked, but their locations were recorded. The quiet event was attended by representatives of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The site was a Cherokee village, following intensive Native occupation during the Woodland and Mississippian periods.

Marilyn McGaughey presented the following documents for the Secretary to deposit in Council archives:

1. Council' s information packet to legislators in 2005-2006
2. Spring 2005 issue of *Early Georgia* that discusses archeological site loss in Georgia
3. Terry Minvielle' s 1995-1996 analysis of Georgia' s recognition of tribes, prepared for the Georgia House of Representatives
4. Ronald Ethridge' s 1995 testimony regarding state recognition of tribes
5. The 2009 Annual Report of the Georgia Council on Aging (as an example of such a report)

Marilyn McGaughey informed the Council that the Coosawattee Foundation, a 501c3 entity, has offered to serve as a conduit for directing funds to Native American state historic sites to help better meet their goals.

Tom Gresham reported that he attended the successful and informative Southeastern Archeological Conference in Mobile in early November. He noted that the presence of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' historic preservation officer Russell Townsend added an Indian perspective to the discussions.

The Council received a thank-you note from Fernbank Museum curator Dennis Blanton for the Council' s financial contribution. Sarah Hill said she invited him to our January meeting.

Marilyn McGaughey reported that DNR Commissioner Clark sent a letter to pertinent federally recognized tribes inviting them to discussions about the Etowah Mounds State Historic Site museum and preservation of its holdings.

Vonnie McCormick reported that Miko Enterprises presented at a trade show in Dubai about their demand processing business. Governor Perdue was also present.

Ongoing Business

Regarding Rules and Regulations, no progress has been made. The main unresolved question seems to be about how to hold the required hearings.

Sarah Hill reported on progress how to best highlight and promote Georgia's Native American historic sites, principally through some sort of booklet or newsletter. She has contacted Jeane Ciraque about Georgia's African-American newsletter. Sarah learned from GDOT archeologist Eric Duff that the Department is not satisfied with a booklet on Indian sites in Georgia that has been several years in production and not yet finished. The GDOT was receptive to partnering with the Council to produce some sort of informative media.

Frankie Mewborn stated that the commissioned report on the Etowah Museum is now in the hands of the Historic Preservation Division and Parks and Historic Sites' archeologist Debbie Wallsmith, but is not being widely distributed yet. Marilyn requested that the Council be given a copy as soon as possible, and Frankie agreed to make a copy available. This prompted the thought to check our web site to make sure the new, curtailed hours of operation for state historic sites are correctly posted; Sarah Hill will look into this.

Tom Gresham mentioned that our 2009 annual report was now overdue. He and Sarah Hill will work on it in the coming month, using the format the Council has used in the past several years.

Tom Gresham mentioned that David Crass's office had requested another copy of the Teachers Guide to *Frontiers in the Soil*, which he provided. Tom said this raised the question of whether the Council wanted to purchase more of the Teachers Guides, as we had purchased only a few earlier. Vonnie McCormick and Frances Crews said they could each productively distribute about 10 copies of the teachers guides. The Council agreed to purchase 40 more guides, which will cost about \$7.00 each. Tom Gresham will make the purchase and bring the copies to the next meeting.

Ralph Crews mentioned that his tribe will help with diversity training at the Kings Bay Naval Base. Vonnie McCormick mentioned that their tribe is helping with presentations on Indians in Georgia to second graders in the local school system.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Visitors: Ryan Kennedy, Frankie Mewborn, Vonnie McCormick, Frances Crews, Gisela Gresham