



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Language History and Culture Committee

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Yargee called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Councilman Jack Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 11 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; Jackie Bob Martin; Phyllis Yargee; Don Garvin; John F. Keener; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker and Audra Smoke-Conner

Absent 2 - David Thornton Sr. and Taylor Keen

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 15th regular session. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Cemetery Restoration Assistance Report
Don Greenfeather

Mr. Charlie Soap handed out the cemetery report. He stated they would be glad to assist with implementing policies. Chair Yargee announced this is new business item 2. She inquired if the committee would like to amend the agenda to discuss now.

Council member Cowan Watts made a motion to amend the agenda to discuss the incomplete cemetery projects. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion Regarding Incomplete Cemetery Projects

Chair Yargee pointed out the incomplete projects on the report. She stated last month it was decided that there needs to be a black and white policy. Council member Cowan Watts stated she would like to continue to have the Community Service group to administer the program. She requested a recommendation from the Community Service group as to what needs to be done. Mr. Soap stated most of these communities ask for funds because they don't have any and there is a need. Most of the older folk understand Ga Du Gi but are not capable of doing the physical labor. He stated he didn't feel we could do any better with the policy and it is the responsibility of Community Service to enforce. He stated the cemeteries are a full time job however there aren't funds available to pay someone. Indirect costs are not withheld. He stated the policy is fine and he is available to do whatever is recommended. Council member Cowan Watts voiced concern

regarding FOIA requirements. She stated if receipts are not available then she would like for there to be some sort of written documentation stating how the funds were spent. Mr. Soap stated some of the people receiving the funds don't understand record keeping. Councilman Martin agreed with Mr. Soap and stated a lot of it is having trust in the people. He stated when he visits with the people he explains the 120 day requirement. Councilman Anglen stated most of the people in his area are volunteers and he doesn't want to burden them with receipts. Ms. Donna Chuculate inquired if the contact person who is responsible for the funds keep the funds as payment to themselves for maintenance and upkeep. Council member Cowan Watts stated she spoke to the Council attorney after the last meeting and requested he draft policies however he is in Washington DC today. She suggested that this be an agenda item next month with the policy in hand. Councilman Bill John Baker stated Mr. Hembree returned early this morning and is in the office if needed. Chair Yargee agreed a sub committee to work together with community service would be helpful. Council member Cowan Watts stated she felt it is something Chair Yargee could do. Chair Yargee stated she was a part of the original sub committee and this is the same discussion as before. If this is not sitting right with the committee and community services then there needs to be more than 2 or 3 participants. She asked everyone who wants to be on the sub committee to come and participate and get this ironed out. Last month receipts were a requirement and now this month it is being said they aren't necessary. Councilman Martin stated the checks are made to certain individuals and there has to be trust that the funds will be used for the cemeteries. There must be some sort of information returned for a record of how the funds are spent. Mr. Soap suggested they write up some policies and bring them back to the committee for review. Councilman Bill John Baker stated he agrees with Councilman Anglen. This can be really difficult to where we send almost as much money in employee time, headaches, and reports having Cherokees generally elders worrying about finding or keeping up with receipts. He stated the quality of maintenance of the cemeteries has gone up considerably since the beginning of this program. He suggested accepting written reports and only if there is question should receipts be provided. Councilman Keener stated if reporting is not turned in then the contact shouldn't be able to receive funding the next year. Councilman Jack Baker stated it appears the people are learning to report the largest number of outstanding reporting is in 2005 and less each year there after.

Councilman Garvin stated the policy needs to be simple and need to get away from the hard rule of needing receipts. The cemetery should speak for itself if the funds are being spent appropriately. Chair Yargee requested the policy suggestions be provided to the committee before the meeting to allow time for review. Council member Frailey inquired if they would like help of some of the committee members when creating the procedures. Mr. Soap stated he would inform the committee when they start the process. Mr. Soap stated they would not let up as far as monitoring the program and they would ensure they are accountable for the funds. Chair Yargee gave appreciation for Mr. Soap and his group for all of their hard work.

Councilman Jack Baker moved to accept Mr. Soap's suggestion of bringing policies next month for review and vote. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. Directors Report

Dr. Gloria Sly

Dr. Gloria Sly announced the language classes have ended for the spring. The summer cultural camp began last week and will go through the 29th of June at Cherokee elementary school. They are working on the assessments for the immersion programs as well as refining the kindergarten program. They will begin work on the first grade

assessments. Through these assessments they will be able to report on the progress the children are making in language acquisition and if it is holding them up their development of English skills. She had one of her staff attend the 13th Annual National Association of Drug Court Professionals with the Wellness Court Staff. She stated they are a resource to all programs within the Cherokee Nation. She felt the Healing to Wellness Court will become a national model for bringing culture into the court program. She attended the language summit. The Anna Martinez language act was passed last fall. The Act will propose funding for immersion pre school programs, language survival skills, teacher training, and parent training. Appropriations were recommended last week in the amount of \$3ml. The Heritage Center had 18 participants complete the humanities course through the education activities. The instructors are now evaluating and looking for ways to improve for the fall semester. They continue to assist with the hope partner program. They are planning and would like to invite all Council to a 2008 strategy meeting. She announced the Council is also encouraged to attend the Under the Cherokee Moon dinner theatre.

Chair Yargee asked Dr. Sly would like to provide an update on the GPR equipment at this time. Dr. Sly stated they have received the equipment. They have sent a staff member for training and the other staff member goes in August. They will begin working with the equipment next week. They will be ready to conduct some cemetery work in approximately 3 weeks. She stated they may divert some of the funds set aside for staff training if it meets the approval of the committee. She announced there are other departments who want to use the equipment.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Former Chief's Gravesite Monuments (Discussion)

Dr. Sly stated they have not gotten the cost estimates as requested.

Councilman Crittenden made a motion to pass to the July agenda. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. AN ACT AMENDING LEGISLATIVE ACT 25-05 AS AMENDED BY LA# 1-07 RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF CHEROKEE CULTURE AT CHEROKEE NATION FACILITIES

Councilman Bill John Baker stated this basically this changes the 1% to 2% unless it is a parking garage then it goes to an appropriate facility.

Ms. Linda Allen from CNE stated there are excess funds from the 1%. She provided a handout of information from June 1st of what the budget is per project, what has been expended, and the amount of excess. She stated they are working with the clinics to determine if they have excess funds. She provided an overview of the handout. The funds are available until expended. Chair Yargee commented on the art work at the Sallisaw Casino stating there isn't much there for the amount of money spent. Ms. Allen stated there is additional art work for Sallisaw that will be hung by the end of the month.

A motion was made by Councilor Bill John Baker and seconded by Chair John F. Keener, that this matter be Approved and Forwarded to Council. The motion FAILED by the following vote:

Yea: 5 - Bill John Baker; S. Joe Crittenden; Phyllis Yargee; John F. Keener and Audra Smoke-Conner

Nay: 5 - Jackie Bob Martin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen and Jack D. Baker

Abstain: 1 - Don Garvin

NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Cemetery Restoration Assistance Applications

Council member Conner made a motion to approve Molly Field Cemetery, Boudinot Cemetery, Cemetery with no name – Nancy Wells, Manus Cemetery, and Hendricks Cemetery in Cherokee County District 1. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Crittenden made a motion to approve England cemetery, Proctor Sanders Community Cemetery, Reese cemetery, Blackwood cemetery, and Ketcher cemetery in Adair County District 2. Councilman Martin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council member Yargee made a motion to approve Seabolt cemetery in Seqoyah County District 3. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council member Frailey made a motion to approve Bryan Lindsey cemetery and Little Rock Indian cemetery in Mayes County District 6. Councilman Garvin seconded the motion. Chair Yargee announced it has been brought to her attention that Bryan Lindsey has already received funds this year. Councilman Bill John Baker suggested holding the application until 2008 funding. Council member Frailey made a motion to approve and hold until 2008 funding. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Yargee announced the next meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday July 17th at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Martin moved for adjournment. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:05 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

<i>Jack D. Baker</i>	<i>Buel Anglen</i>	<i>Phyllis Yargee</i>
<i>Bill John Baker</i>	<i>Cara Cowan Watts</i>	<i>Don Garvin</i>
<i>Jackie Bob Martin</i>	<i>Meredith Frailey</i>	<i>S. Joe Crittenden</i>
<i>Johnny Keener</i>	<i>Audra Smoke-Conner</i>	

VISITORS PRESENT:

Taylor Keen David Thornton

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____

Date: _____