



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Council House
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Meeting Minutes - Final EDUCATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

Julia Coates, Chair

Recording Secretary, Shelli Brittain
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Monday, March 15, 2010

3:00 PM

Legislative Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garvin called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

INVOCATION

Councilor Jack D. Baker gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present 15 - Bill John Baker; David Thornton Sr. ; Don Garvin; Meredith Frailey; Cara Cowan Watts; Buel Anglen; Jack D. Baker; Tina Glory Jordan; Jodie Fishinghawk; Janelle Fullbright; Harley Buzzard; Curtis Snell; Chris Soap; Bradley Cobb and Chuck Hoskin, Jr.

Late Arrival 2 - S. Joe Crittenden and Julia Coates

Councilor Buzzard made a motion to amend the agenda to add new business item #5 A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans – Esther Martinez Native American Language Preservation Act. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilor Buzzard made a motion to amend the agenda to add new business item #5 A Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Native Americans. Councilor Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Jack D. Baker moved to approve the February 16th regular session minutes. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

1. Talking Leaves Job Corp/Career Services/Voc. Ed - Diane Kelley

Ms. Kelley offered to answer questions from her written report. Councilor Fishinghawk inquired if the backpack nutrition funds set aside during the budget hearings had been given out. Ms. Kelley commented the funds were given out in November. Councilor Hoskin Jr. requested a list of the programs receiving the funds. He stated historically the Boys and Girls Club programs have received the backpack funds but on the program in his area run by the Salvation Army. Ms. Kelley commented the backpack programs were to be added on to the allocation given to the Boys and Girls Clubs. Councilor Hoskin Jr. stated his intent was for the backpack program in Nowata ran by the Salvation Army to receive funding. He commented he would review the minutes and look for a way to remedy the situation.

2. Executive Director's Report - Melanie Knight

Secretary of State Melanie Knight offered to answer questions from the written reports provided. She announced the grave markers for the former Chief's are ready and are currently being stored. She requested guidance in regard to historical markers. The motor vehicle tax distributions have been scheduled in regional sessions which have been provided by email. Councilor Glory-Jordan requested an update on the scholarship waiting list. Ms. Knight announced applications have been funded through the 24th of July. They do have late applications that have not been funded. They have to ensure they have enough funds to award the salutatorian and valedictorian scholarships as well as the fall scholarships. The analysis performed shows if they do not fund any additional late applications they should be in good shape to fund the fall semester. If they do fund the approximate 300 late applications they will not be able to fund all fall semester applicants or at least not at the same level they were funded in the spring. Councilor Glory-Jordan inquired how many of the late applicants were students who would graduate after this spring semester. Ms. Knight commented she was unsure but would identify the number and determine if it would be feasible to go ahead and fund those. She provided a list of scholarships funded by Cherokee Nation Education Corporation. Dr. Shelley Butler-Allen announced the annual JOM conference and awards banquet is next Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Tulsa Marriott. She provided personal invitations and an agenda along with RSVP forms which must be turned in if attendance is planned.

3. Head Start - Verna Thompson

No one present to report.

4. Cultural Tourism - Molly Jarvis

Ms. Jarvis gave an overview of the written report provided. They have launched a Facebook page for cultural tourism. Tour tickets can now be purchased online. They have already booked 47 group tours with a revenue impact of over \$50,000. The Supreme Court dedication will be held on April 7th at 10:00 a.m. The demolition has begun on Water Street in Tahlequah. Ms. Jarvis announced currently have a bid open for caterers who can prepare cultural meals for the tour guests. They showed the new just launched TV spot. Ms. Jarvis recognized Travis Owens and Steve Rush who help her manage the Cultural Tourism department.

OLD BUSINESS

None pending.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING REVEREND CHARLES O. WALKER AS A FRIEND OF THE CHEROKEE NATION
Councilor Jack D. Baker made a motion to approve and forward to Council tonight. Councilor Cobb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF SURPLUS EXERCISE EQUIPMENT FROM SEQUOYAH SCHOOLS TO BELFONTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A motion was made by Chair Julia Coates and seconded by Councilor David Thornton Sr. , that this matter be Approved and Forwarded to Council to the TRIBAL COUNCIL. The motion carried unanimously.

3. GAMMON TRUST PRESENTATION
Presenter: Kimberlie Gilliland
Dr. Butler-Allen commented she was unsure as to what type of presentation was requested. She offered to answer any questions to be able to move the modification request from the table of the Executive & Finance Committee. She gave an overview of the requirements listed in the trust agreement. She stated they have been doing scholarship funding for the last ten years and are fully capable of taking on this challenge. Councilor Hoskin Jr. inquired if there is a reason why the Cherokee Nation Higher Education Department couldn't administer the scholarship. Dr. Butler-Allen commented it may be due to the quarter-blood or higher requirement. She stated a legal precedent was set many years ago pertaining to blood quantum requirements and discrimination.

Dr. Butler-Allen announced they extended the Cherokee Nation Education Corporation scholarship deadline has been extended to April 15th. She provided additional copies of the scholarship applications and commented the applications have been provided to the schools and counselors via email and postal service.
This matter was Presented

4. AN ACT AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHEROKEE NATION STUDENTS WHO ARE ACCEPTED TO THE MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES OF UNITED STATES
Councilor Bill John Baker gave an overview of this Act stating it provides the deposit required to attend these military academies. Councilor Bill John Baker moved to approve. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion with a friendly amendment that if this scholarship is accepted they are not eligible for other undergraduate funds from the Cherokee Nation. Councilor Bill John Baker accepted. Ms. Knight commented currently these students are eligible for higher education funds and have two now who are receiving \$2,000 per semester. One of these students is from 2006 and the other is from 2008. With this friendly amendment it would need to be determined if these two would continue to be eligible or not. She commented if both are implemented together there would be duplicity.
Councilor Bill John Baker moved to table for 30 days to allow for additional

research. Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS - ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE PRESERVATION ACT

Councilor Cowan Watts moved to approve and forward to Council tonight.
Councilor Buzzard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

Councilor Buzzard moved to approve and forward to Council tonight.
Councilor Cowan Watts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Bill John Baker moved to adjourn. Councilor Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 4:12 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

Diane Kelley
Doug Evans
Tom Elkins

Melanie Knight
Shelley Butler-Allen
Pat Gwin

Jennifer Pigeon
Paula Ragsdale
Margaret Raymond

VISITORS PRESENT:

Molly Jarvis
Ollie Starr

Steve Rush
Doris Meyer

Travis Owens