

**LANGUAGE, HISTORY & CULTURE COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**February 13, 2007**

**9:05 A.M.**

**STANDING COMMITTEE:** Language, History & Culture Committee

**COMMITTEE PRESIDED BY:** Phyllis Yargee, Co-Chair

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jack D. Baker  
Bill John Baker  
Jackie Bob Martin\*  
Johnny Keener

Buel Anglen  
Cara Cowan Watts  
David Thornton  
Audra Smoke-Conner

Taylor Keen  
Don Garvin  
Phyllis Yargee  
S. Joe Crittenden

\*Entered after roll call

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Meredith Frailey

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT NOT SERVING ON COMMITTEE:**

None.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Dr. Gloria Sly  
Dr. Neil Morton

Donna Chuculate

Ben Phillips

**VISITORS:**

Bryan Collins

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED:** Yes

**LEGISLATION:** Yes

**MINUTES:** See Attached

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**February 13, 2007**

**9:05 A.M.**

**Call to Order / Invocation / Roll Call:**

Chair Yargee called the meeting to order. Council member Conner gave the invocation. Roll was called and a quorum was established.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Councilman Anglen made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

Cemetery Restoring Assistance Report:

Ms. Donna Chuculate provided a handout of the report in the absence of Mr. Don Greenfeather. Ms. Chuculate gave an update of the reports.

Directors Report:

Dr. Gloria Sly gave her appreciation for the Council passing a resolution last night. She provided a list of up coming community classes. They will hand out flyers in the community as well as provide a press release. She stated there are 1000 participants enrolled in the online classes. The quilting classes are continuing. Councilman Jack Baker inquired about the start time for the online classes. Dr. Sly stated they begin at 9:00 am. Councilman Jack Baker expressed concern for the constituents in different time zones. Dr. Sly stated the classes are available up to 9:00 pm. and is available 24 hours daily. Councilman Keen stated questions regarding the online classes are the most popular from the At Large constituents. He inquired about an actual teacher for the classes in California. Dr. Sly suggested sending someone here to attend the program at NSU. Councilman Keen inquired how many language teachers the Cherokee Nation employees to serve the nine districts. Dr. Sly stated it depends on the community peoples schedules. These are not formally trained teachers. The only formally trained are those attending NSU. There are nine in the program at NSU now. One of these students will graduate this spring. She has 8 offers non of which are from us. Councilman Keen inquired about a budget change to provide for a traveling teacher. Dr. Sly stated due to budget restraints they have limited services within the 14 county area. Dr. Morton agreed if the efforts continue to teach the Cherokee language beyond the 14 county area there will be a need for a live person. He stated they could follow the same model of the history course. He stated the immersion class is only a drop in the bucket. He stated he would be coming forward with a proposal to establish a community based immersion. Council member Cowan Watts stated she cannot support sending funds outside of the 14 counties until all of the 14 counties are covered. She stated Districts 7 and 8 are not included in the classes at this time. Council member Yargee stated there are schools within the 14 counties that want teachers now. She stated it not realistic to think after a 10 week language course that you would know all

there is to know about Cherokee. Councilman Crittenden inquired if a survey of the community people had been performed. Dr. Sly stated a survey was performed 5 years ago. A five year plan was developed from the results of the survey. The minimum age for people who could converse in Cherokee at the time of the survey was 45. This group is now 50 and beyond child bearing years. Cherokee is a very complex language. Councilman Bill John Baker reminded everyone a major portion of the oath of office they had taken is the promotion of heritage and culture of the Cherokee Nation. The federal programs can not go outside the fourteen counties however there are tribal dollars that can do what we say they will. The new constitution states we will have two At Large Council members who will serve the constituents outside the fourteen counties. The biggest population of Cherokees outside the fourteen counties is in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Why would it be so terrible to send a language teacher to North Tulsa. We need to let the representatives of the out lying districts determine where the precious resources go. Councilman Anglen stated Dr. Sly has been great in his area. He stated he has found 4 volunteer teachers and Dr. Sly has provided all of the materials. He stated he doesn't feel like anyone is being left out. He stated there are speakers out there to be found if the Council would do their job to find them. Councilman Martin stated he is very proud of the Cherokee language program. He agreed with Councilman Bill John Baker in regard to being responsible. He stated for any program to be successful it must have a starting point. This is a tremendous challenge.

#### **Old Business:**

1. Cherokee Artist Association Copyright Issues and Requests for Proposals. Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to table this item. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried to next month.
2. Former Chief's Gravesite Monuments (Discussion). Councilman Jack Baker made a motion to table. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Councilman Bill John Baker commented he and Jack Baker attended a meeting last week. They are gathering bids and they have discovered more Cherokee chiefs.

#### **New Business:**

1. Approval of the Cemetery Restoring Assistance Applications: Council member Bill John Baker made a motion to approve Cochran cemetery in District 1. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Thornton made a motion to approve Flute Springs Cemetery in District 3. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Chair Yargee apologized to the Flute Springs community organization for her delay in turning in the application. Motion carried. Councilman Garvin made a motion to approve Hilderbrand Cemetery in District 4. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. An Act Regarding Indian Arts and Crafts. Council member Cowan Watts stated they have been doing community task force regarding individuals trying to act like tribal citizens. The National or Federal Indian Arts and Crafts Act is not tailored to us nor does it have punishment. One of the topics of discussion is to include an enforcement mechanism, creating a deadline for inventory, and a way for the TERO office to certify genuine artist. Councilman Bill John Baker voiced concern for the only one who could be guilty and be punished would be non citizens. He stated we don't have jurisdiction over non citizens nor have the ability to enforce fines and imprisonment. Councilman Keen stated he is well aware of the Federal Act and it has always been a troublesome issue. He stated it is a

difficult issue to try to control identity and culture. There are true Cherokees but don't have a card to prove. He agreed with wanting to promote Cherokee art but doesn't want to put someone in prison just because they can't prove their Cherokee. He stated he would not be able to support this Act. Councilman Garvin stated this Act needs a lot of work and made a motion to table. Councilman Bill John Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Chair Yargee announced there has been a request to change the meeting date next month to Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> to allow everyone to attend Legislative day at the Capitol. Councilman Garvin made a motion to change the meeting date to Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

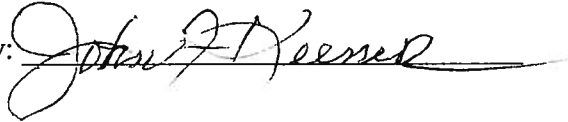
**Adjournment:**

Councilman Bill John Baker moved for adjournment. Councilman Crittenden seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval/Distribution:**

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by:



Minutes attested and concurred by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_