



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Meeting Minutes

Language History and Culture Committee

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

9:00 AM

Legislative Conference Room

Call To Order

Chair Keener called the meeting to order

Invocation

Chair Keener gave the invocation.

Roll Call

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

Absent 1 - S. Joe Crittenden

Late Arrival 1 - David Thornton Sr.

Approval of Minutes

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13th regular session and the March 13th regular session. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Reports

1. Cemetery Restoration Assistance Report
Don Greenfeather

No one was present to report.

2. Director's Report
Dr. Gloria Sly

Dr. Gloria Sly announced the employee language classes ended last month. A new session of the online classes began last week. She is unsure of the number of participants at this time. They are spending a large portion of their time preparing for the summer cultural camp at Cherokee Elementary. She provided applications for the camp to be held from June 4th through June 29th. They are hosting a language fair this week as well as helping with the 35th annual Indian symposium. Wes Studie is the key note speaker at the symposium this year. She announced they will hold a one and half day workshop on language. Students from Hawaii will be attending the symposium to speak on Thursday, visit the immersion center on Friday, and a sit in on a meeting on Saturday. The video conferencing along with other cultural activities are ongoing.

Old Business

Former Chief's Gravesite Monuments (Discussion)

Dr. Sly provided a copy of the foot maker they recommend. She stated the design of the marker has been approved by administration and is out to bid now. She stated the marker will be an inch above the ground and be approximately 12 inches by 9 inches. Councilman Martin inquired if anyone had examined the condition of the existing headstones. Dr. Sly stated they are of all different types and styles, some are new and modern and some are very elaborate. Councilman Bill John Baker suggested the foot marker being at least 2 feet by 18 inches. He voiced concern that the recommended size would be too small. Councilman Anglen suggested making them like the veterans. Dr. Sly announced Daniel Mink in communications created the design.

New Business

Mr. Todd Hembree announced the committee had been handed legislation prior to this meeting which is not included on the agenda due to the similar titles. He asked for the committee to amend the agenda to include this piece of legislation sponsored by Council member Cowan Watts.

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to amend the agenda. Council member Frailey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1

Approval of the Cemetery Restoration Assistance Applications.....Chair

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to approve Pumpkin Hollow, Neugin, Gray, and Downing cemeteries in Cherokee County District 1. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Martin made a motion to approve Beaver cemetery in Adair County District 2. Council member Yargee seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Jack Baker made a motion to approve Clouds Creek, Snell, and Long Prairie cemeteries in Delaware County District 5. Council member Conner seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council member Frailey made a motion to approve Elm Grove and West cemeteries in Mayes County District 6. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Hembree stated Councilman Anglen pointed out two of the applications are from candidates of political office. Councilman Martin stated Joe Grayson in District 2 is not the same as the Deputy Chief Joe Grayson. Mr. Hembree stated he is unaware if there is a conflict just wants the committee to be aware. He announced he would speak to Ms. Hammons for her opinion. Council member Conner stated Sue Fine is a candidate in Mayes County and the cemetery is in Cherokee County. Mr. Hembree suggested approving the application contingent upon the outcome of the Attorney General's opinion. Council member Yargee stated she doesn't see a problem with the application. We are all trying to work together for the betterment of the Cherokee people and that includes political candidates. Councilman Bill John Baker suggested noting as a committee that Sue Fine is on the application and have the Chair direct Mr. Hembree to ask for an opinion of the Attorney General. If there is a conflict provide Ms. Fine with the opportunity to allow someone else associated with the cemetery to sign the W9 form to process the application. Councilman Anglen stated he just noticed the name and wants to ensure there isn't a conflict. He stated he is always under a microscope and just wants everyone to be treated equally. Mr. Hembree suggested the committee approve the application contingent upon a clean bill of health from the Attorney General. Councilman Bill John Baker stated the application has already been approved by this committee and made a motion if the Attorney General finds a conflict then the application be pre approved for someone else's signature. Council member Conner seconded the

motion. Motion carried.

2

AMENDMENT TO LEGISLATIVE Act 25-05- AN ACT RELATING TO THE
PRESERVATION OF CHEROKEE CULTURE AT CHEROKEE NATION FACILITIES

Mr. Hembree announced this Act is sponsored by Council member Yargee and Councilman Bill John Baker. Mr. Hembree stated this is an amendment to legislation that requires 1% of construction cost be set aside for the purchase of Cherokee art for that facility. The amendment would increase the 1% to 2%. Councilman Garvin offered a friendly amendment for this to be effective upon the approval of the project. Mr. Hembree stated this would not be retroactive. This would apply to any projects approved after the enactment of the legislation. Councilman Keen stated he supports the employment of Cherokee artist to decorate our facilities. He stated he feels the 1% is more than enough and asked Ms. Linda Allen if there has ever been a constraint. Ms. Linda Allen stated there hasn't been a problem so far to date. Councilman Keen voiced concern stating the increase would come from our pockets. Council member Yargee stated she believe this discussion is a result form meetings with the Cherokee artists. Several months ago this Act was reviewed and at that time an increase was briefly considered. Since then the Act has been amended to approve the maintenance portion of the art. The concern developed that the maintenance and procurement of the art may cut into the amount spent to purchase art. This increase is a request to overcome this concern. Councilman Jack Baker announced the Act before us at this time does not include the amendments already made. He stated he would like to have the correct version in hand to make an appropriate decision. Councilman Bill John Baker stated this should be a case by case issue. There are times when the framing and procurement costs as much as the purchase of the art.

Councilman Bill John Baker requested time for Linda Allen to speak to this issue. Ms. Linda Allen from CNE announced she works with the artist, procurement, and placement of the art. She stated there are projects now with surplus funds. These funds will go into a pool for other projects. Council member Yargee inquired how long the carryover is available. Ms. Allen stated she would need to ask their accounting department. She stated there is a carryover on Sallisaw, Tahlequah, and the parking garage at this time however she is unsure of the amount. Mr. Hembree stated he would meet with Councilman Garvin in regard to the language for effective projects as well as contacting CNE to determine what type of funds are in the surplus and length of time available.

Councilman Garvin made a motion to table to next month. Councilman Jack Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3.

A LEGISLATIVE ACT RELATING TO CHEROKEE NATION AUTHENTICITY OF 2007

Mr. Todd Hembree stated this Act is sponsored by Council member Cowan Watts. He recommended the title of this Act be "The Cherokee Nation Arts and Crafts Authenticity Act".

Council member Cowan Watts moved for approval to allow discussion. Councilman Anglen seconded the motion.

Councilman Bill John Baker inquired if anyone had spoken to either the artists or TERO. It seems as though a blue and white card are now not enough. He stated he agrees with the principal however he is concerned with the requirements this specifies. Mr. Hembree stated the Act doesn't require TERO certification it requires TERO certifies these are Indian artists. Councilman Keen voiced concern that this legislation would hurt true artists. He stated Willard Stone and others have been recognized for a long time but this act would exclude them. He questioned the motivation for the legislation. Council member

Cowan Watts announced there had been a lot of assumptions made without her having an opportunity to speak as sponsor. She stated the need for the TERO list came from JOM people not knowing where to go to purchase Cherokee art. This would stop people who are not Cherokee who are making money selling art as Cherokee. Councilman Garvin asked if the legislation could be written to make an exception for Mr. Stone and Mr. Hale. Mr. Hembree stated the Council can make any exception they wish. A private bill could be passed to say these individuals are exceptions to this particular legislation or it can be made a part of the actual legislation. Council member Yargee inquired how this legislation would effect the arts and crafts during the Cherokee National Holiday. Council member Cowan Watts stated non Cherokee artists would have to show they aren't Cherokee artists. Council member Yargee voiced concern for Section 5 number 1. Council member Cowan Watts stated this needs to be amended. Mr. Hembree stated the intent of the legislation is not to prohibit the sale of Indian art. The idea is anyone can set up a booth at the Holiday but an Indian artist certified by TERO would display a certificate recognizing you are a true Indian artist. Council member Yargee requested Ms. Allen's opinion. Ms. Allen stated the have lost several Indian artists who don't want to go through the waiting period. Council member Cowan Watts called point of order.

Councilman Bill John Baker made a motion to table. Council member Yargee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Announcements

None.

Adjournment

Councilman Bill John Baker moved for adjournment. Councilman Thornton seconded the motion. Motion carried at 10:03 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT:

*Dr. Neil Morton Melanie Knight Ben Phillips
Dr. Gloria Sly Todd Hembree*

VISITORS PRESENT:

Jim Ketcher Linda Allen

APPROVAL / DISTRIBUTION:

Minutes submitted by: Shelli Brittain, Recording Secretary

Motion to approve minutes made by: _____

Minutes attested and concurred by: _____