



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

Karenne Wood
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting June 8, 2004

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Dan McGuire (Indian At Large), Mitchell Bush (Onandaga, Advisor), Deanna Beacham (Weapemeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Floyd Mills (Delegate), John Ficklin (At Large), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Keith Smith (Nansemond/Cherokee), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Janet Sellers, Faye Adams, Angela Daniel

The meeting was called to order by Chair Karenne Wood. The invocation was given by Buck Woodard.

Administrative Business:

1. The minutes from the April 24, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion being made by Juanita Smith, and the second by Buck Woodard.
2. The date of the September VCI business meeting conflicts with the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, an event being attended by many of the Virginia Indian community. Therefore the meeting was rescheduled to September 7, 2004.

New Business:

1. The first presenter was Janet Sellers, Equal Employment Specialist at the Langley Research Center, who came to speak of job opportunities at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. She distributed materials about NASA and the Langley Research Center. Ms. Sellers described the summer program for college students, a program for high school students, an annual children's day in August, and the annual diversity day at Langley in October.
2. The next item on the agenda was the Virginia Indian Heritage Trail project. Karenne explained that this project was first discussed by the VCI two years ago after a presentation from the state Tourism Department, now known as the Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC). The idea would be to map sites related to Virginia Indians that are suitable for visits by tourists.

Karenne brought the idea up last January at the Tribal Leadership Summit in relationship to the Jamestown 2007 commemoration and it was supported by the chiefs. Also, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities has expressed an interest in partnering with the VCI on the project, and the Virginia Foundation for Humanities has indicated that funding to help the project would be available. The project offers a chance to educate the public about Virginia Indian history in general and the contemporary Virginia Indians. Karenne wants to move ahead with the project and asked for comments. It was suggested that the public needs to be told that powwows, which could be listed as part of the project, are open to the public. It was decided that an organizational meeting be held to determine the scope of the project and what various partners could provide. The VTC, APVA and VFH will be invited. Buck Woodard volunteered to participate in the project.

3. Karenne will be convening another meeting of the tribal chiefs in July, as a follow up on Jamestown 2007 issues and potential projects. The meeting will be held in Richmond and the VCI will host lunch for the meeting.

4. The Department of Historic Resources is allotting money for ten additional highway markers on Virginia Indian sites, people or events, and would like the input of the Virginia Council on Indians on what topics should be chosen for markers. Karenne would like volunteers to work on this project. Deanna will gather information on existing markers pertaining to the Virginia Indians. Karenne will write a letter to the tribal leaders and input will also be solicited from the entire Virginia Indian community. Karenne asked that council members and others start sending their ideas in to the VCI email address.

Old Business:

1. Next Karenne gave an update on interaction with the staff of the commercial movie *The New World*. A meeting of tribal representatives will be held with the film staff at their offices in Williamsburg on June 9. The staff has said they will answer questions about the movie and discuss their research on history and cultural material at the meeting. After the meeting Karenne will make a report on what is learned. Karenne also stated that the tribal communities and the VCI had not been asked to endorse the film. Also chiefs who have commented on the film have said that they have no objection to members of their tribes participating in the movie. In the ensuing discussion it was mentioned that much of the information about the movie being circulated around Virginia Indians was coming from sources other than the movie staff, such as the speculations of trade publications. Karenne also mentioned that she was reassured about the sensibility of the director/writer's perspective after reviewing earlier Malick movies.

2. Jamestown Settlement movie - This is the introductory movie to the museum at Jamestown Settlement. The Jamestown Yorktown Foundation mailed a draft script of the movie to members of the VCI. Also a casting call notice for the movie was circulated via VCI email list. Comments on the script are due to Joe Gutierrez in writing by June 18, 2004. This is the Virginia Indians' opportunity to have input to a movie script that will probably be used at the museum for several years. In the following discussion, council members indicated that the movie script was not satisfactory and that they intended to convey this message to the museum director. It was also mentioned that Indians might be reluctant to be in the movie unless they had some assurance that the script portrayed the Powhatan Indians accurately.

Announcements:

1. The next business meeting of the VCI was announced will be July 20, 2004. The meeting will be in House Room 2, as House Room 1 is undergoing repairs.

2. The National Museum of the American Indian will begin holding The National Powwow at the MCI Center in DC in September of 2005. This is planned as an annual contest powwow similar to Gathering of Nations and Red Earth, and there will be an entrance fee for spectators. More details will be forthcoming.
3. Marlborough Point History meeting: There will be a meeting for residents of Marlborough Point at the Brooke Fire Station, on Saturday, June 12, 2004, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, which will include presentations on the prehistoric (Indian sites) on which many residents live, including archaeology, the treatment of burial sites, and working with VA Indians. The Army Corps of Engineers scientist asked that someone from the VCI to attend to answer questions regarding the Section 106 consultation process and the Virginia Indian viewpoint. Karenne, Deanna and Mitchell will attend. There will also be representation from the Patawomeck.
4. The Mattaponi Annual Powwow is June 19, 2004 from 10 AM to 5 PM on the Mattaponi Reservation in King William County, VA.
5. The VITAL bluegrass fundraiser event is scheduled for June 19, 2004, at the Chickahominy tribal grounds in Charles City County, VA.
6. There is a VITAL reception being held at the National Historic Society on June 15, 5:30 - 9 PM. Tex Hall, president of the National Congress of American Indians, will be the keynote speaker.
7. Mitchell Bush and Karenne Wood will be attending the GIIC meeting August 11-13, in Grand Traverse, Michigan. Karenne will be speaking on NAGPRA issues at the meeting.
8. Suzanne Almalel, Chair of the Maryland Commission of Indian Affairs contacted Karenne about the MCIA requesting that the August 2005 Governors Interstate Indian Council annual meeting be held in Maryland. The MCIA asks the support and help of the VCI in this endeavor of hosting the annual meeting. Karenne and Mitchell will follow up.
9. Coming up September 21, 2004: The NMAI opening ceremony procession. Application is in member's packets. There is no longer a deadline for signing up. Intertribal Women's' Circle is renting a bus for Indians who are marching in the procession. It will go to DC for the day, leaving from Richmond at 4:30 AM. Cost is \$25 per person; contact Debora Moore.
10. Karenne participated in the selection of the NMAI Eastern Stone and its placement at the new building. The Virginia Indian chiefs are invited to participate in the dedication ceremony for the four stones to be held June 21, 2004. Karenne is coordinating this effort.
11. Danielle reported that Karen Lynch Harley, who is working on the NMAI artists' database, has said that she needs assistance in contacting certain groups from the Virginia Indian community. Danielle will send an email to Karenne to be forwarded to Virginia Indian contacts.
12. Danielle also reported that the 2004 field school is ongoing at Werowocomoco through the first week in July. There is to be an open house for the Virginia Indians the third week in June; when she knows the date she will notify the VCI. There will be a teacher workshop with teachers from Gloucester toward the end of the field school. The likelihood of a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for next year appears promising, and a grant request has also gone to VFH for videotaping. Minutes from past meetings of the research group will be

compiled and made available to the College of William and Mary and the VCI. The new website address is <http://powhatan.wm.edu>.

13. Dante reported that the Virginia Indian Development program was approved for funding for the 3-year operations portion of the program. The funding will come from Americorps. The federally funded portion of the program, which was for planning the potential operations, ends in July, and the operations portion begins at that time. This will allow the program to implement the planned operations with the participating tribes.

14. Karenne announced that the Governor's office was in the process of choosing the members for the three available Indian-at-large seats on the Councils. The announcements should be made on or shortly after July 1, 2004.

15. Danielle said the William and Mary programmatic agreement to do historical research for the National Park Service was coming to an end, and she would share preliminary output with the chiefs and interested VCI members for their comments. Comments will be included in the report to the National Park Service.

16. Faye Adams announced a public comment forum for persons who had participated in the programs from the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy. It will be held on June 21, 2004.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.