



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 April 19, 2005

Present: Chair Karenne Wood (Monacan), Frank Richardson (Rappahannock), Gerald Stewart (Eastern Chickahominy), Juanita Smith (Nansemond), Frank Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Mitchell Bush (Onondaga, Indian at Large), Danielle Moretti-Langholtz (Citizen At Large), Deanna Beacham (Weapomeoc, Council Program Specialist)

Absent: Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Dante Desiderio (Sappony, Indian at Large), Buck Woodard (Muskogee Creek, Indian At Large), Paige Archer (Meherrin, Indian At Large), Sonya Lawrence (NC Nottaway, Indian at Large), Ryan McDougle (Delegate), Floyd Miles (Delegate), Allen Louderback (Delegate), Bill Bolling (Senator)

Attending: Asst. Chief Gene Adkins (Eastern Chickahominy), Pinky Smith (Cherokee/Nansemond), Tim Johnson, Faye Adams, Dionne Walker, Julia Earnstein, Angela Daniel

Administrative Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM, and the invocation was given by Gene Adkins.
2. The minutes for the January 18, 2005 meeting were approved, with the motion being made by Juanita Smith and seconded by Gerald Stewart.

New Business:

1. Tim Johnson, from the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service, addressed the Council to inform them of the conciliation mediation facilitation services performed by his office. This branch of the Justice Department functions as a peacemaker for community conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race and ethnicity. Tim's services are available to Virginia Indians for any problems which may be culturally or racially based in origin. Petitioners do not have to be members of a government-recognized tribe. Tim officially works out of the regional office in Philadelphia, but is on the road most of the time. He can be reached at any time via email address Timothy.Johnson@usdoj.gov or telephone number 202.369.0632.
2. The second item on the agenda was a letter from Michelle Sauve of American University, where they are planning for a panel discussion scheduled for the end of June on "The Controversy over Celebrating/Commemorating Jamestown's 400th Anniversary". She is

interested in finding panel participants from among the Virginia Indian tribal leaders. Copies of her letter were emailed to the VCI members and included in the members' packets, and Ms. Sauve received a list of contact information for the tribal leaders.

3. Next Karenne led a discussion among the members and guests on the VCI's 11th Annual Conference, held this past March. No report on the conference was issued this year. Comments were uniformly positive. There was a general regret that more tribal people don't stay all day Saturday for the planned programs, although it was noted that Saturdays are often overscheduled for many Indians. There was some discussion of trying to shuffle the schedule so as to have the most important programs early on Saturday, as people tend to leave after lunch, or perhaps limit the second day to just Saturday morning and lunch. Suggestions were made to limit the number of awards, to more firmly establish the criteria for award nominations, and to make those criteria clear to the tribes well in advance. It was also suggested that we consider using local talent from our own tribes.

Old Business:

1. Karenne reported on the Virginia Indian Nations Summit on Higher Education at UVA, which was well attended by tribal members and featured many excellent presenters who were working on projects related to education about Virginia Indians. Friday night there was a public forum sponsored by the UVA students group on the topic of Federal recognition, which attracted a standing-room-only crowd.

2. The book panel co-sponsored by the VCI and the Virginia Foundation for Humanities, held during the same weekend as part of the Virginia Festival of the Book was also very well attended. The main criticism of attendees was that the panel wasn't long enough, and there wasn't enough time for questions and answers. The VFH has approached the VCI about doing a similar panel in the future, to be held in a larger space in Richmond, and with more time scheduled for presenters and questions from the audience. Tapes of the panel may be purchased from C-SPAN on their website www.cspan.com, and free downloads of the audio are available on the podcast website www.cvillepodcast.com.

3. Karenne reported that she had received a call asking if the Virginia Indians would like to host the premiere of the film *The New World*, to which she responded that no one had seen the film so that question couldn't be answered, but that she told New Line Studios that she thought it appropriate that the Virginia Indians be invited to be guests at a pre-screening or premiere of the movie here in Virginia.

4. Frank and Karenne then gave an update on the Jamestown 2007 tribal advisory committee. Each tribe has named a member to the committee, which has a meeting scheduled for the upcoming VITAL powwow. Frank and Reggie will be crafting a draft business plan to be presented to the committee, and then to the tribal leaders. When agreed upon, the chiefs can sign off on the business plan, which will be the guideline for the upcoming 2007 planning. Jamestown 2007 has agreed that it would be in everyone's best interest to hire a coordinator for planning the Virginia Indian events, and are researching how to make that happen.

5. A brief report on the diversity highway historical markers was given by Deanna. The current list of proposed markers was sent to all Council members and was included in the members' packets, as well as VDHR's letter asking for 2-3 committee members for participation on the committee. Chief Miles has asked for Jeff Brown to be a member, and Council member Buck Woodard also volunteered. Meetings with VDHR will begin in May.

6. Mitchell reported on the GIIC conference planned for Northern Virginia the weekend of August 11-13. Plans include a reception hosted by NMAI, a visit to the NMAI powwow, a panel discussion among tribal officers assigned to the DC area, a reception hosted by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and visits to tribal centers in central Virginia. A conference call to firm up the agenda and other items is planned in the near future. Karenne will check with the Governor's office on their pledge to sponsor the conference.

Announcements

1. The next VCI business meeting will be May 17, 2005, at 6:30 PM in room 7 West in the General Assembly building.
2. The VCI office is moving as of May 2, along with the rest of the Cabinet offices, to the Old State Library Building at 1111 E. Broad Street. The phone number and mailing address will remain the same.
3. Faye Adams of the Virginia Office of Protection Advocacy distributed brochures about the VOPA services.
4. Virginia Beach Powwow, April 23, 11 AM - 7 PM, Red Wing Park, Clark Stewart - MC.
5. VITAL 3rd Annual spring powwow, April 30 -May 1, Chickahominy tribal grounds, Charles City.
6. AIS Mother's Day powwow, May 7-8, Ruther Glen, VA. See website www.aisdc.org for directions.
7. Monacan Powwow, May 21-22, Elon, VA. A flyer will be distributed via email.
8. Juanita will bring flyers for the Nansemond powwow to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.