



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Council on Indians

P. O. Box 1475, Richmond, VA 23218

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

William P. Miles
Chair

Virginia Council on Indians Meeting October 28, 2008

Present: Chief Bill Miles (Pamunkey); Assistant Chief Earl Bass (Nansemond); Sharon Bryant (Monacan), Chief Ken Adams (Upper Mattaponi), Joanne Howard (Chickahominy Eastern Division), Mitchell Bush (Indian at large, Onondaga), Reggie Stewart (Chickahominy), Sherry Munford (Indian at large, Sappony), Deanna Beacham (Council staff, Weapemeoc)

Absent: Chief Anne Richardson (Rappahannock), Chief Carl Custalow (Mattaponi)

Attendees: Gerald Epps (Sappony), Pam Talbott (Monacan), Terry Talbott, Karenne Wood (Monacan), Lynette Allston (Nottoway of Virginia), Allard Allston, Archie Elliott (Nottoway of Virginia), Leroy Hardy (Nottoway of Virginia), Ken Munford, Helen Rountree.

Call to Order:

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:30 PM by Chief Bill Miles, Chair, and the invocation was given by Reggie Stewart. Chair Miles then asked all those present to introduce themselves.

Administrative Business:

1. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the September 16, 2008 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Assistant Chief Bass and seconded by Chief Adams, and passed unanimously.

2. The next item on the agenda considered the VCI financial reports for August and September 2008. Copies of the report were distributed to the members. As there were no comments or questions, the Chair accepted the reports as presented.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Old Business:

1. The first item of old business was a report on the 2008 Virginia State Fair, by Karenne Wood, who coordinated Virginia tribal participation in this event. Her written report and recommendations had previously been distributed to the VCI members and tribal leaders via email. She recapped recommendations regarding displays, staffing, vendors, food vending, and the budget for next year's State Fair. Chief Adams suggested that the recommendations, including the proposed budget for next year, should be sent to the tribes for review and comment before any future decisions are made. It was also suggested that considering what was needed for an expanded exhibit, a larger budget should be requested.

2. Sidney Turner, chair of the VCI's advisory committee, reported that the committee had met October 22 to consider possible program scenarios for a spring conference. The objective was planning for a one-day conference at the Chickahominy Tribal Center with a catered lunch and programs in both the morning and the afternoon. The committee proposed a budget based on 100 persons attending, of expenditure of approximately \$3500 and revenue of \$3000 from attendees. Programs were to be in economic development, with such topics as forming a business, creating a business plan, and profit vs. non-profit businesses, and motivating young people in higher education, with admissions officers invited to speak. In response to a member's question, Mr. Turner said this was just a preliminary plan, and more input is wanted. Another meeting is planned for November for further discussions.

Council members had several comments and suggestions, including resources for speakers on business who would not charge for outreach activities, including federal and state officials. It was suggested that that council members and committee members identify colleges with programs for Virginia's Indians to send representatives. A motivational speaker for parents and potential students might be appropriate. Members also suggested that the registration fee be lowered considerably in order to get maximum attendance.

The committee will be meeting again in November, and council members who have ideas and suggestions should email them to the VCI office for distribution to the advisory committee prior to their next meeting.

3. The next agenda item was a discussion regarding changing the bylaws to accommodate having fewer VCI meetings per year. The Chair provided several alternative suggestions, including meeting quarterly or every other month, or changing the language to reflect what is in the Code of Virginia, which does not set a schedule of meetings. After comments and discussion by the Council members the consensus was not to change the bylaws at this time, so the action was tabled. It was suggested that reminders of upcoming topics and deadlines be regularly inserted in the VCI meeting agendas and mentioned at meetings.

4. The final item of old business was brief report on the recent Advisory Committee meeting for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Four American Indians are on the committee, including VCI member Chief Stephen Adkins and VCI staff Deanna Beacham. The committee's current objectives include input on the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Trail, the development of which is currently in the public comment period. It has been suggested that the VCI write a letter of public input to the Trail management advocating for the continuing input of the Virginia tribes into the interpretive content for Trail material. After some discussion, a motion to write such a letter was made by Reggie Stewart and seconded by Sharon Bryant, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

There were no items of new business.

Announcements

1. The next VCI meeting will be November 18, 2008, at 6:30 PM in room 5 West of the GAB.
2. Archaeology of a Middle Woodland site at Chippokes State Park: October 27- November 1. Virginia Indians are invited.
3. The Library of Virginia presents a Monacan panel discussing Rosemary Whitlock's book The Monacan Indian Nation of Virginia, November 14, noon. Free and open to the public.
4. The annual treaty tribute of the Mattaponi and Pamunkey tribes will be held Wednesday, November 26 at 9:15 AM at the Executive Mansion. Open to the public.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 PM.