



**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
September 1, 2020**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Harper called the meeting to order. Carolyn Ritchey gave the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Tonya Mathews declared a quorum with all members present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Logan Pappenfort to approve the Minutes of August 4, 2020. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Peoria Ridge Golf Course:

Milton Hale, Peoria Ridge Golf Superintendent, began his report by stating the following:

- The weather in August has been great and the greens are thriving;
- The Bermuda rough has been growing well and it has been a challenge to keep up with it;
- Chemical and fertilizer is being ordered now to maximize the best prices;
- October 5th and 6th the course will be closed for aerification;
- Equipment leases will be coming due soon and decisions will need to be made on how to proceed.

Austin Shipman, Peoria Ridge General Manager, started his report by stating that the membership drive is continuing to have immense success and there are 51 new members to date. Mr. Shipman stated that the number of rounds and revenue generated in August is the highest it has ever been. He stated that the events that have been hosted for the membership has been a huge success. Mr. Shipman further stated that the upcoming VIP tournament will now include members and will not solely consist of Buffalo Run Casino VIPs as it has in the past. In closing, he stated that the restaurant bar is introducing new specials and this is proving to be very successful.

Buffalo Run Hotel:

Kristi Riggs, Buffalo Run Hotel Manager, started her report by stating that the occupancy rate is still low, but revenue is being offset by the increase in the average daily rate. She also

advised the Business Committee that the Hotel is offering many special events and are currently promoting a “Stay and Play” package, where customers can stay at the hotel and play at Peoria Ridge Golf Course. Ms. Riggs stated that the hotel breakfast is continuing to have success and other amenities are being provided to guests, such as: champagne, rose petals, chocolates, and custom flower arrangements. The hotel is waiting for approval on their alcohol license but are prepared to offer the service once approval is received. In closing, Ms. Riggs stated that the wage adjustment for hotel staff will hopefully reduce turnover and create continuity in employee performance and customer service.

Buffalo Run Casino:

Patrick Browne, Buffalo Run CEO, began his report by discussing coin in as a metric growth indicator. He was proud to announce that the business is growing its topline and this is very visible in the budget. Mr. Browne stated the brand image is very important to the success of a property and that Buffalo Run is known for the best entertainment as well as jackpot payouts. Management is taking an aggressive approach to ensure that the property is known as the best place to work and has the best standards for both the employee and the patron.

Steve Bashore, Buffalo Run Casino General Manager, provided the Business Committee with the following update:

- Kiosks located on the floor provide surveys to guests to help Management see the strengths and weaknesses of the property in order to improve guests’ experience and satisfaction;
- Currently the guest experience is at an overall satisfaction score of 75% but the goal is 90%;
- The plan for improved guest experience begins with the employee and the continued investment into employees. An example of an incentive to reach the 90% goal is to provide a \$200 cash bonus quarterly for improved guest experience. In total an employee is eligible to receive \$800 more a year.

Financial Reports

A motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the Financial Reports for July 2020 as presented. Motion passed.

Administrative Program Reports

Chief Harper provided a brief overview of his printed report stating the following:

- The COVID Application process had been put into place at the offices and, to date, 60% of eligible tribal citizens have been processed;
- The COVID Application continues to provide increased workflow and traffic in the Enrollment Department;
- Department meetings are continuing. The Gaming Commission office has been added and the Housing Authority office will be added soon;
- The application period has closed on the Grant Writer position and interviews will be conducted soon;
- The Accounting office has been split into two separate office areas to ensure the health and safety of employees.

In closing, Chief Harper stated there may be an opportunity to provide an event at the Rathjen property and that more details would be coming later.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 08/13/2020 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 09/01/2020 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting. Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve new members recommended for approval by the Enrollment Committee on 8/13/2020. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-01-20-A, “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”: Motion was made by Logan Pappenfort and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-09-01-20-A as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-01-20-B, “Resolution Authorizing Submission of FY2020 Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Native American Business Development Institute (NABDI) Grant Application”: Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-09-01-20-B as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval American Indian Center for Excellence Proposal For Continued Services: Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Hank Downum to provide a financial contribution with a minimum of \$10,000 and not to exceed \$25,000 to American Indian Center for Excellence. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval Model Standards for Peoria Shield Program: Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve Model Standards for Peoria Shield Program. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-01-20-C, “Resolution to Recommend the Appointment of Appeals Officer with Primary Duty of Magistrate for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Bureau), Eastern Oklahoma Region, Miami Agency (Agency), Court of Indian Offenses for the Miami Agency (Court)”: Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Logan Pappenfort to approve Resolution R-09-01-20-C as presented. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Executive Session

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Authorized Signature



Date Approved