



PEORIA TRIBE

OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA

118 S. Eight Tribes Trail • P.O. Box 1527
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Logan Pappenfort

PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING

December 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, except Logan Pappenfort who is ill.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to approve the Agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Isabella Burrell to approve the Minutes of November 3, 2020. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Peoria Ridge Golf Course:

Austin Shipman, Peoria Ridge General Manager, began his report by first inviting the Business Committee to the Member Social on December 18th. He then concluded his report stating the following:

- The last social event had approximately 40 members present;
- November continued to have a great volume of rounds played;
- Have started booking events for 2021;
- To date, there are 166 members;
- Bidding process will begin for new golf cart lease;
- Clubhouse Bar and Grill is introducing new specials.

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

- There is an extensive list of tasks to be completed over the winter months;
- New security measures implemented by Buffalo Run Casino have been very effective;
- Privacy fence at Hole #15 is progressing and the old fence will need to be removed;
- Equipment that was approved at last Business Committee meeting will be arriving in March 2021;

In closing the report on Peoria Ridge Golf Course, Patrick Browne, Buffalo Run CEO, stated that 2020 had been a very hard year, with a big learning curve. However, he concluded the report by stating that Peoria Ridge Golf Course is prepared and ready for 2021.

Buffalo Run Hotel:

Kristi Riggs, Buffalo Run Hotel Manager, began her report by turning the Business Committee attentions to a video presentation. In her presentation Ms. Riggs highlighted the new mattress and linens that are currently in the hotel rooms. She further stated that the process of trading old mattresses for new mattresses was a smooth transition and involved a total of 36 team members. In addition, Ms. Riggs stated that the mattress distribution to tribal citizens went very smooth and she appreciated the help by Kara North and Isabella Burrell. Ms. Riggs further stated that the new smoking area outside is under construction and will be a nice addition to the property. In closing, Ms. Riggs stated that she thought Buffalo Run Hotel would be the first hotel in Oklahoma to offer beer and wine sales.

Buffalo Run Casino:

Brian Estep, Buffalo Run Facilities Director, continued the video presentation highlighting renovations and construction projects at Buffalo Run Casino.

Patrick Browne, Buffalo Run CEO, started his report by advising the Business Committee that the renovations include a Top Golf simulator and Esports gaming area. The renovations will be new and innovative as well as the first in the nation to be done by a tribal casino. In addition to those two new areas, renovations are being done on restrooms at Buffalo Run Casino. The last item that Mr. Browne highlighted was the “signature scent” that has been added to the property.

Mr. Browne then transitioned to the financial side of the property where he highlighted many changes that were done on the “employee side”. To ensure the employee satisfaction stays high the Healthcare program was improved. In addition to better benefits for the employees the property was also able to save a significant amount of money. The payroll program was recently switched and that is a cost saving area too. The reinvestment into the property is happening for both employees and patrons. In addition, Mr. Browne stated that a Leadership and Development training had just started, and he was proud to announce that 33 employees participated. These trainings will continue into the new year.

In closing, Mr. Browne provided some marketing statistics and financial data.

Financial Reports

A motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to approve the Financial Reports for October 2020 as presented. Motion passed.

Administrative Program Reports

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

- Tribal meetings (NTHS/ITC) are continuing to be closed and/or virtual;
- The Veteran’s Event was well attended;
- Overall construction update was provided for Woodland Academy and Peoria Longhouse;
- Buffalo Run Casino will be hosting a bird dog event this coming weekend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 11/18/2020 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 12/01/2020 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 11/18/2020. Motion passed.

Resolution R-21-01-20-A, “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”: Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-12-01-20-A as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-12-01-20-B, “Resolution Authorizing Submittal of the Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Fiscal Year 2020 Indian Housing Block Grant Program – Competitive Grant”: Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-12-01-20-B as presented. Motion passed.

Reappointments to Peoria Tribal Election Committee (Kristen Gillman, Bud Ellis, Courtney McCartney, Shelley Mitchell): Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Hank Downum to reappoint Kristen Gillman, Bud Ellis, Courtney McCartney and Shelley Mitchell to the Election Committee. Motion passed.

Appointment to Peoria Tribal Election Committee: Motion died due to lack of action.

Discussion/Approval to proceed with Christmas bonuses to Tribal Department Staff: Discussion in Executive Session due to confidentiality.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to move into Executive Session at 7:21 pm.

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded Kara North to come out of Executive Session at 7:47pm.

Discussion/Approval to proceed with Christmas bonuses to Tribal Department Staff: Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Christmas bonuses as done in previous Fiscal Year. Motion passed with one abstention (Tonya Mathews).

PUBLIC COMMENT:


No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



Authorized Signature



Date Approved