



**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
September 7, 2021**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

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

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Tonya Mathews declared a quorum with all members.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve the Agenda with a change to line-item H, correcting the date of the Resolution to R-09-07-21-G. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Hank Downum to approve the Minutes of Special Meeting on June 21, 2021, and Regular Meeting on August 3, 2021. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

A motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to approve the Financial Reports for July 2021 as presented. Motion passed.

Enterprise Reports

Patrick Browne, CEO – Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, began his report by advising the Business Committee that this reporting period ended the fourth month in this Fiscal Year. He also stated that the month of July had been a big month for the property. Mr. Browne then introduced Katherine VanStavern, newly hired hotel director at Buffalo Run Hotel.

Mr. Browne then invited Milton Hale, Peoria Ridge Golf Course Superintendent, to the podium to begin the reporting on Peoria Ridge Golf Course. Mr. Hale began his updates by stating the fairways had been staked, fertilizer continues to be applied to areas hit by winter kill and aerification of the greens had begun. In addition, he stated that preparations for Fall are in place such as herbicide and fertilizer application. In closing he stated it had been a long hot summer, but the course had held up very well.

Austin Shipman, Peoria Ridge Golf Course Manager, began his informing the Business Committee of a new promotion focused on “out of town” members had been started. He also stated that membership continues to grow. Mr. Shipman stated that there had been a large tournament hosted recently and it was met with great success. He advised the Business Committee of upcoming events: member social on September 17th and member tournament

on September 19th. In closing Mr. Shipman stated that Peoria Ridge Golf Course had just received the award “Best of the 4 States” which is comparable to the “4 States Finest” that had been awarded a few months ago.

Mr. Browne briefly interjected some additional points regarding Peoria Ridge Golf Course, such as the new marketing campaign provides for perks that will drive traffic to Buffalo Run Casino and that there had been revenue and rounds records set in 2020 that Peoria Ridge Golf Course continues to hit those high marks.

Brian Estep, Director of Facilities, discussed projects that are completed or are in progress at Buffalo Run Casino. These projects included: new walk-in coolers; new signage directing patrons to Backwoods Bar and Grill area; installation of LED boards in the Showplace; updating “boiler room area”; and laundry room at Buffalo Run Hotel had been renovated and new equipment had been installed.

Kathy VanStavern, Director Buffalo Run Hotel, stated that the property had underwent a deep cleaning of all rooms, new signage had been installed for elevators, air units are receiving new parts; and new radios had been ordered for housekeeping staff. In closing Ms. VanStavern stated there are a few projects that will be completed soon: lowering bed frames in handicap accessible rooms, replacing lamp shades in rooms, and changing door locks for the rooms.

Donna Smith, Director of Human Resources, began her report by stating that the casino had just completed a leadership and team building training. There were 76 employees that participated in this training, some in supervisory positions and others that are interested in supervisory roles. In addition, Ms. Smith stated that the employee attendance program had been increased to \$250 per quarter. She advised the Business Committee she is part of a women in leadership board at MSSU and they will be offering an 8-week course with certification upon completion. In closing she stated that the employees will have a new 401k option beginning in January 2022 and this will provide for more investment opportunities for employees.

To close out the enterprise reports was Nathan Dowling, Director of Surveillance, Security & IT Operations. Mr. Dowling stated that BRC IT had been very busy with tribal properties, adding security cameras, network infrastructure and various IT tasks. Regarding Buffalo Run Casino and the new construction at the property, 55 new cameras had been installed and HID card readers had been replaced throughout the entire property. Transitioning his report to upcoming projects, Mr. Dowling stated that IT would be very busy with the following tasks: adding HID card readers to tribal headquarters; upgrading Peoria Tribal Gaming Commission licensing software; replacement of surveillance cameras at Buffalo Run Casino; and adding surveillance/network/IT infrastructure at the three new tribal properties (Community Center, Daycare and Emergency Response Center).

Administrative Program Reports

Chief Harper provided a summary of his written report, highlighting the following:

- Attending First American Museum (FAM) events, as preparations for the Grand Opening are being hosted
- Staff had booth and activities at the Heritage Fest, and it was a huge success
- Provided an introductory meeting with new Miami School Superintendent
- Attended Five Moons event in Norman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 8/23/2021 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 09/07/2021 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting. Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to approve new members recommended for approval by the Enrollment Committee on 08/23/2021. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-A, "Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll": Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-A as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-B, "Resolution R-09-07-21- B, "Resolution to Submit Oklahoma Historic Preservation Grant Application to the Oklahoma Heritage Preservation Society on Behalf of Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Collection Preservation Project" Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-B as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-C, "Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Recognition of Application for ICDBG-ARP Imminent Threat Grant and Certification of Citizen Participation Requirement" Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-C as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-D, "Authorization of Signatures with First National Bank and Trust Company of Miami, Oklahoma for Accounts Entitled Buffalo Run Casino" Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-D as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-E, "Authorization of Signatures with Security Bank and Trust Company of Miami, Oklahoma for Accounts Entitled Buffalo Run Casino" Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-E as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-F, "Authorization of Signatures with First National Bank and Trust Company of Miami, Oklahoma for Accounts Entitled Buffalo Run Hotel" Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-F as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-09-07-21-G, "Authorization of Signatures with First National Bank and Trust Company of Miami, Oklahoma for Accounts Entitled Peoria Ridge Golf Course Operating Account" Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-09-07-21-G as presented. Motion passed.

Appointments to the Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Discussion to be held during Executive Session

Discussion/Approval of Financial Contribution to Miami Community Facilities Authority (MCFA): Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve a 5-year financial contribution of \$12,000/per year for Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Advertising at NEO Football Stadium. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval of Logo for Early Childhood Program: Discussion was held regarding the three logos presented and no action was taken. Item died for lack of action.

Discussion/Approval to Amend the Land Acquisition Budget and Tribal Enterprise Budget Transfer to Complete the Purchase of the Edward Property: Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve amending the land acquisition budget and tribal enterprises budget transfer to complete the purchase of the Edward property. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chief Harper addressed the group by stating that he had met with staff from Senator Lankford's office. He stated that during this meeting he expressed his concern with the process regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds and the lack of receiving Final Guidelines. Chief Harper stated he had also expressed that Tribes are more than capable of determining the needs of their citizens and that the U.S. Government does not need to be involved in the process.

Peoria citizen Rosanna Dobbs asked how much funding the tribe had received in ARPA funds. Chief Harper stated that to date the tribe had received just over \$23 million.

Ms. Dobbs stated that she understood the ARPA funding and said that the delay of the U.S. Treasury in issuing the Final Guidelines is the volume of comments that had been submitted.

Chief Harper stated that as he understood the process the U.S. Treasury had 60 days, by their own rules, to provide the Final Guidelines. He further stated he was hopeful this meant the Guidelines could be issued by September 16th, using the July 16th as the date.

Ms. Dobbs further expressed that it would be in the benefit of all tribes if the Final Guidelines would be changed.

Peoria citizen Stacy Lindsly thanked the Business Committee and the citizens in attendance for the commitment to upgrading the casino. The changes were necessary and are noticed by the patrons.

Third Councilman Isabella Burrell had several items to address:

- 1) The ability for the Business Committee meetings to be provided on-line
- 2) Discounts to tribal citizens at tribal businesses

Chief Harper addressed the items brought forward from Second Councilman Burrell. He stated that providing discounts to citizens at tribal businesses is an option and can be brought forward from the Business Committee. He further stated that his concern about this option is that it is not something

available to all citizens and he receives a considerable amount of feedback about benefits that are only accessible to “local citizens.” Chief Harper addressed the ability to provide the Business Committee meetings on a video platform by stating that staff is researching the details and options of a video platform. He stated that some areas of consideration are the ability to have it accessible to only Peoria citizens and the best option to provide a professional presentation.

Peoria citizen Nick Hargrove stated he did not think that providing the “live” option should not be that difficult. Rosanna Dobbs also stated she did not see why it needed to be complicated. Stacy Lindsly stated she did not want the Business Committee meetings to be readily available to anyone and everyone, she stated it should be available only for citizens. There was discussion from the floor about possibly using a “You tube” type channel. Isabella Burrell stated she thought access should be limited to citizens only also, but felt it needed to be addressed and the line of communication open and consistent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:


Motion was made by Isabella Burrell and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to move into Executive Session at 7:51 pm.

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Isabella Burrell to come out of Executive Session at 9:48 pm.


Appointments to the Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners: Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to appoint Isabella Burrell and Kara North to the Peoria Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Tonya Mathews. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 pm.



Authorized Signature



Date Approved