

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 03, 2023

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION:

Chief Craig Harper called the meeting to order. Rosanna Dobbs gave the Invocation.

DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Secretary Tonya Mathews declared a quorum with Treasurer Hank Downum and First Councilman Carolyn Ritchey absent. Ms. Ritchey arrived late to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs seconded by Kara North to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Isabella Clifford and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on December 6, 2022. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve the Financial Reports for November 2022 as presented. Motion passed.

Enterprise Reports

Patrick Browne, CEO of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, introduced himself. He then stated that the food that was presented tonight was prepared by Buffalo Run Casino & Resort Employee & Tribal Citizen Axle Farless. He introduced Mr. Farless who then gave a brief overview of what food was presented and how it was prepared. The Business Committee commended Mr. Farless for his accomplishments. Mr. Browne then introduced Milton Hale and Jeremy Weiss, both with Peoria Ridge Golf Course, to give their reports.

Mr. Hale, Superintendent of Peoria Ridge Golf Course, began his report, which included:

Golf Course Accomplishments

- Applied the second application of pre-emergent herbicide to greens
- Removed dead trees and scheduled stump grinding
- Removing rest of the old, barbed wire fencing on #15 and under brushing
- Equipment maintenance and repairs
- Repainting tree markers, trash containers, etc....
- Will begin dormant spray herbicide application in late January or early February

Mr. Hale then introduced Jeremy Weiss, Golf Course Manager for Peoria Ridge Golf Course.

Mr. Weiss began his report, which included:

Golf Course News

- Purchased a Ping fitting cart for guest satisfaction
- Sold six sets of irons
- Purchased a Mevo Plus Launch monitor to help with club fitting and to increase revenue
- Titleist will be coming in for a fitting day
- Anticipating several sales through the Spring
- PRGC has sold nine sets of irons over the last three years. The current goal is to sell twenty. Must sell more merchandise and equipment this year. Will be offering a better variety of products next year.

Golf Course Financials

- 11% *decrease* in revenue from November last year to November of this year, but up 11% YTD
- 13% *decrease* in golf rounds from November last year to November of this year, but up 16% YTD

Mr. Weiss ended his report by asking the Business Committee if there were any questions. He then introduced Katherine VanStavern, Director of Buffalo Run Hotel.

Ms. VanStavern began her report, which included:

Hotel Accomplishments

- Peoria Tribe (Buffalo Run Casino & Resort) brought home the ‘Holiday Spirit’ Award in the 2022 City of Miami Christmas Parade. This was based on displaying the best overall creativity, appearance, and originality.
- Led and completed the Hotel and Casino’s holiday decorations as well as created the tabletop displays for our VIP holiday parties.
- Suites are being updated with all new lamps, pillow covers, drapes, and top sheets that have been picked out and ordered.

Hotel Initiatives

- Replenishing linens, towels, and top sheets for all standard rooms
- Working on color-matching paint for room touch-ups
- Continue to work on water leaking issues at the front entrance
- Negotiating with several vendors to get better pricing on hotel supplies, continuing to look into cost initiatives to reduce total hotel expenses

Hotel Financials

- 2% *decrease* in Hotel Revenue from November last year to November of this year, but up 6% YTD (\$76,890)
- 1% *decrease* in Room Revenue from November last year to November of this year, but up 6% YTD (\$71,284)
- 15% *decrease* in Grab-n-Go sales from November last year to November of this year, but up 11% (\$5,606) YTD

CEO Patrick Browne spoke up and thanked Darin Abernathy, Mike Martin, and their crew for taking great care of the property grounds, Christmas lights, asphalt, etc.

Ms. VanStavern ended her report and introduced Mary Jewett, Director of Marketing for Buffalo Run Casino & Resort.

Ms. Jewett began her report, which included:

Highlights & Opportunities

- Truckers Campaign Updates:
 - The new billboards are working. From October 2022-December 2022, our truckers database grew 5% in 90 days. We now have 3,000 valid addresses and emails for our truckers. Food and Beverage has redeemed 2,775 vouchers so far.
 - Online reviews from truck drivers have been very positive with many that are 5 star.
- New Year's Eve Celebration went better than expected.
- A report was ran to show the top 'Coin-In Days' from 2008 to current which showed that the NYE VIP Dinner hit the top five of the highest coin-in days!
- Team Member Motivation: Continuing to focus on team member recognition and motivation. One new effort includes our Mission and Vision statements being posted down the hallway, as well as a large motivational wall.
- Team Member Recognition: Created a team member hallway that highlights the 'Rockstar of the Month' employee, HERD winners, and Secret Shopper Winners.
- Internal Team Member Communication: New interactive boards with current events and time-sensitive notifications. Such communications include promotions and entertainment, which rotate daily. We have also added postings in the employee breakroom that include information from Human Resources (Appreciation Day, Benefits, Special Events, and Announcements).
- Media Initiatives: The media goal for 2023 is to bring all buying in-house by February which would create an annual cost savings of \$1,000,000 on buyer's fees. The focus will be to continue to draw in a large and sustained guest base to stay and play at Buffalo Run Casino & Resort.

Ms. Jewett ended her report and introduced Angela Gosney, Director of Finance for Buffalo Run Casino and Resort.

Ms. Gosney began her report, which included:

Slot Financials

- Coin-In was down 8% from November last year to November of this year, and down 12% YTD.
- Slot Win was down 6% from November last year to November of this year, and down 14% YTD.
- Ms. Gosney informed the Committee that although the month and YTD are down, the financials are slowly heading in the right direction, month over month.

2023 Casino Distribution

- Distribution comparing November FY2022 to FY2023 reflects a change of \$178,296
- YTD Distribution reflects a change of \$2,457,242
- Ms. Gosney informed the Committee that there were four more months to go in the FY and that the financials are slowly trending in the right direction, month over month.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Chief Harper began staff reports by introducing Darin Abernathy, Director of Construction for the Tribe.

Mr. Abernathy began his report with a slideshow that included:

Where We Are, This Quarter (Construction):

- Demolition and Remodel of HHS (Peoria Academy)
- Demolition of North Miami Warehouse
- Working with Blue River Architects to finalize design and layout of food distribution building, wellness center, and cemetery projects
- Tracy Coach, Director of Health and Human Services, is planning an Open House for the Citizens and the Community

Third Councilman, Isabella Clifford asked if the Business Committee will be able to look at the blueprints of the new facilities before final decisions are made. Chief Harper assured her that would happen.

Where We Are Going, Next Quarter (Construction):

- Collaboration with Blue River Architect Firm for Peoria Cemetery and the Campus
- Continue maintenance and upkeep of current projects

Mr. Abernathy ended his report by introducing Bill Chase, Director of Finance for the Tribe.

Mr. Chase began his report with a slideshow that included:

Where We Were, Last Quarter (Finance):

- In the process of changing accounting and payroll programs that will all integrate
- Exploring Intaact software program to replace our current MIP program
- Completed audit with no findings
- 2024 Indirect Cost Proposal preparation, working with DiFonzo Accounting

Where We Are, This Quarter (Finance):

- Moving forward with systems implementation
- Criterion software will replace Paylocity
- 2024 Indirect Cost Proposal submission
- Tribal Programs Budget vs. Actual, Projected Savings as Compared with FY23 is \$2.8 million in savings

Where We Are Going, Next Quarter (Finance):

- Working on Intaact and Criterion implementations, with a projected launch date of April 1st
- Preparing for 2023 Audit

Mr. Chase completed his report and asked for questions from the Committee. He then introduced Charla EchoHawk, Director of Cultural Preservation.

Ms. EchoHawk began her presentation, which included the following:

Where We Were, Last Quarter (Cultural Preservation):

- Coordinated with Woodland Academy for a Parent/Teacher night with traditional food and stickball lessons taught by Wess Farless.
- Veterans Tribute at the Tribal Cemetery
- Veterans Day Powwow (cohosted with Miami Nation)
- Completed the first ever Peoria Language Class and working on the 'lessons learned'
- Recruiting and Interviews for Tribal Historic Specialist

- Recruiting and Interviews for Archival Specialist
- Both positions filled on 12/9/22

Where We Are, This Quarter (Cultural Preservation):

- Finalizing funding and job description for a Repatriation Specialist to interview and hire as soon as possible
- General Council 2023: Election, Meeting, and Annual Stomp Dance
- Peoria Tribal Cemetery: Meeting with civil engineers and Henley for completion of fencing and final installation. Headstone restoration is scheduled for this Spring. Continuing to develop cemetery software and draft policy language regarding all burials at the cemetery. Re-establish Phase 2 funding with the National Park Service (Historic Preservation Grant \$447,000).
- Memorial Day Tribute and Community Meal scheduled for 5/29/23
- 26th Annual Peoria Powwow – planning and final preparations
- Continue acquisition of Veterans status for all tribal citizens

Where We Are Going, Next Quarter (Cultural Preservation):

- Memorial Day Tribute and Community Meal – May 29, 2023
- 26th Annual Peoria Powwow – June 16, 17, & 18, 2023

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Committee reviewed the documents presented for “New Members Recommended for Approval by the Enrollment Committee on 12/14/22 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 01/03/23 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting”. Motion to approve the recommendations was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs. Motion passed.

Resolution R-01-03-23-A, “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”: Motion was made by Isabella Clifford and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-01-03-23-A as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-01-03-23-B, “Authorization of Tribal Officials to Conduct Business with Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-01-03-23-B as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval to Receive the Transfer of Ownership of 17 lots from the Peoria Housing Authority to the Tribal Government: Chief Harper spoke to this discussion line item. The Peoria Housing Authority has unsold lots that they wish to pass to the Tribal Government, this motion was passed unanimously in their Housing Authority Meeting held on 10/18/22. Chief Harper stated that we will work with an architect for a layout and begin plans to start building homes for the citizens. A motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey. Motion passed to accept the lots from the Peoria Housing Authority.

Discussion/Approval for Annual Employee wage change recommendations: No wage changes were discussed. No action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chief Harper began “Public Comments” by asking if there were any questions so that each Tribal Citizen had the opportunity to address the Business Committee or ask questions.

Citizen Jeanne Burgess mentioned that her podcast titled, “Bloodlines – Tales of Indigenous Women” will have all twelve podcasts available next week on Spotify and Apple. She is ready to start season two.

Citizen LeAnne Reeves spoke about how rewarding it is to see the Peoria citizens taking their place amongst other tribes, and for the cultural growth that has taken place. She spoke about working with the other Tribes to complete the “Five Moons” production.

Citizen Wess Farless agreed with Ms. Reeves and promoted the upcoming Peoria language class.

Citizen Axle Farless stated that he hoped everyone enjoyed the food that was presented tonight.

Citizen Korie Payton asked Chief Harper if there were plans in the future to make a road into the campus from Elm Street instead of the neighborhood. Chief Harper replied that this was a thought in the beginning stages, but it sits in a floodplain which creates a problem. He further stated that there were no immediate plans to change this currently.

Citizen Tabitha Sixkiller had a handout for Chief Harper and all Business Committee members. She asked that the Committee please review her letter which is requesting an amendment to the Scholarship Policy.

Chief Harper stated that there was no need to go into Executive Session, seeing no agenda items that needed to be discussed. Third Councilman Isabella Clifford asked if there would be a discussion about the two enrollment issues that were in the packet during an Executive Session. She stated that after reviewing the packet, it seemed that the Enrollment Committee was at a standstill and that they were waiting on a reply or direction from the Business Committee. Chief Harper asked Enrollment Committee member Jeanne Burgess who was in the audience if that were correct. Ms. Burgess stated that they were working through two issues and that it seemed that they did need an answer but she couldn't be certain without knowing what the packet contained. Citizen LeAnne Reeves declared a point of order to inform the Committee that the only two subjects that can be discussed during an Executive Session are: Personnel and pending litigations. She further stated that everything else is to be discussed during open session. After more discussion, no action was taken but Chief Harper asked that this discussion be noted in the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

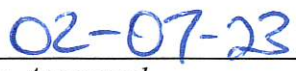
There was no call for Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Kara North and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.



Authorized Signature



Date Approved