

**PEORIA TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEETING
October 4, 2022**

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 present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Hank Downum to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting, held on September 6, 2022. Motion passed.

MONTHLY TRIBAL/PROGRAM REPORTS:

Financial Reports

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

Enterprise Reports

Patrick Browne, CEO of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, began by introducing himself then introducing Milton Hale, Superintendent, and Jeremy Weiss, Manager, both with Peoria Ridge Golf Course.

Mr. Hale began his report by giving an overview of the *Golf Course Beautification*, which included:

- Fall Fairway and tee fertilization was completed in September
- Greens aerification completed on 10/3/22
- Bridges throughout the course have been improved
- New front entrance gates are being installed
- Performing fescue seeding under trees at Holes 1, 2, & 5
- Additional sand is being added to sand traps

Mr. Hale also noted that price negotiations begin for chemicals and fertilizer for the 2023 season began this month. He then introduced Jeremy Weiss, Manager of Peoria Ridge Golf Course.

Mr. Weiss began his report, which included the following:

Golf Improvements

- Potential kitchen remodel – to allow for an expanded menu
- Purchased a new/bigger range picker – this will save on labor hours
- Plans to have floors refinished
- Renovating sand traps
- Plan on purchasing two new fairway mowers in the next two years, the current mowers are nearly ten years old, and will have some trade-in value
- Replacement of work carts over the next three years

**Secretary Tonya Mathews inquired about the fence options since repairs have been hard to complete due to lack of material in the current green fence color. Mr. Hale stated that he inquired about this and the possibility of changing the course to black fencing has been discussed. He further stated that he is waiting on a final answer from Peoria Housing Authority.*

Golf Financials

- 19% increase in revenue (\$22,789) from August last year to August of this year
- 22% increase in golf rounds (795) from August last year to August of this year

Future Golf Needs/Projects for next 1-5 years

- Parking lot drive-in needs asphalt repairs
- Club House areas need stained and sealed; north of the front doors need to be updated
- Property green chain link fence needs to be refurbished

Mr. Weiss ended his report by asking the Business Committee if there were any questions. He then introduced David Murphy, Director of Food & Beverage for Buffalo Run Casino.

Mr. Murphy began his report, which included:

Facilities Accomplishments

- Taste of Grand: Coal Creek participated for the first time. Placed third runner-up in the Supreme Cuisine category.
- Bistro Remodel: Planning a remodel of the Bistro to include a new pizza oven. This will allow an expansion of the menu, as well as, cut cooking time in half.
- Grab-n-Go: Selections will expand with additional gourmet desserts and sandwiches. Will introduce new hot and cold sandwiches/subs, as well as, chicken wings. A new line of desserts - including fruit calzones and fruit crisps, will also be introduced.
- Showplace Remodel: This upcoming remodel will include a modernized bar that will not take any additional floor space and will have the ability to accommodate more guests. In addition, 348 new bleacher-style padded seats will be added to the Showplace floor - which will improve concert profitability.

Mr. Murphy ended his report and introduced Mary Jewett, Director of Marketing for Buffalo Run Casino & Resort.

Ms. Jewett began her report, which included:

Highlights & Opportunities

- The largest concert of the year, “The Black Crowes featuring Special Guest: Whiskey Myers”, was held outdoors in late August and was a success! Around 5,300 were in attendance; food and beverage sales were strong; and the BBQ BOGO sandwich promotion was very well received.

- Opportunities ahead: Looking at scaling ticket prices (making sure that we are pricing them for fair market value); looking at the option of having multiple gate entrances for ticket holders, as well as, opening up several locations for guests to exit after shows are over.
- Truckers Campaign: This campaign continues to grow. From March 2022-September 2022 stats show:
 - Coin-in was \$19,418,088
 - 3,581 of the \$10.00 food offers were redeemed
 - 2,546 unique offers

Research to understand truckers' behaviors will continue. The objective is to double new trucker accounts with the goal of strengthening our guest database.

- New Truckers Billboard Campaign: 3 new billboards were placed in various locations advertising new trucker promotion
- eMarketing Campaign: Targeting truckers to drive in revenue. Approximately, 5,800 emails were sent out to truckers with the campaign, "It's 10/4 Good Buddy".

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

Ms. Dahl began her report, which included:

Hotel Financials

- Hotel Revenue showed an increase of 11% compared to August FY22 and up 7% YTD
- Room Revenue also showed an increase of 11% compared to August FY22 and up 8% YTD
- Grab-n-Go increased 22% compared to August FY22 and down 10% YTD

Slot Financials

- Coin-In was down 4% compared to August FY22 and down 15% YTD
- Slot Win was down 6% compared to August FY22 and down 19% YTD

2023 Casino Distribution

- Distribution comparing FY2022 to FY2023 reflects a change of \$696,506
- YTD Distribution reflects a change of \$1,671,405

**Treasurer Hank Downum inquired if the Casino had plans to buy gaming machines. Mr. Browne answered by stating that he will bring information with number to the next BC Meeting.*

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Chief Harper began his report by commending staff member, Jolynn Kaiser – Director of Childhood Development, on her quick response in keeping the children and staff safe during the recent escaped inmates situation. He then gave a recap of his written report, which included a slideshow of pictures showing the cemetery clean-up. The highlights also included:

- Toured the 'Living Sovereignty' exhibit at the Baxter Springs Heritage Center & Museum
- Continuing to hold bi-weekly Director's meetings and 1-on-1 meetings with each Director
- Starting conversations with chosen architects, Blue River Architect
- Attended Intertribal Council Meeting
- Holding interviews for the Early Childhood Center
- Took a tour of the Muscogee Looped Square store
- Held and participated in the Brad Worthley training with the Business Committee
- Five Moons Event
- Clean out of Ponds at the Campus and PRGC

- Audio consultation at the Community Center

Chief Harper ended his report by introducing Darin Abernathy, Director of Construction for the Tribe.

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

Where We Were, Last Quarter (Construction):

- Sod project at Woodland is complete
- Dumpster enclosures for all three campus facilities with privacy fence around the ERC building has been completed
- Pond project at Woodland
- Mold remediation project at the Environmental offices; large project completed

Where We Are, This Quarter (Construction):

- Current focus is remodeling the Peoria Academy building for HHS to move in to

Where We Are Going, Next Quarter (Construction):

- Collaboration with Blue River Architect Firm for Peoria Cemetery Complex, Food Distribution Center, and the Wellness Center
- Opening Bids on 10/7/22 and will select a contractor to demo the warehouse in North Miami, with a start date of 11/1/22 to ensure a completion date of 12/31/22

Mr. Abernathy ended his report by introducing Bill Chase, Accountant for the Tribe. Mr. Chase began his report with a slideshow that included:

Where We Were, Last Quarter (Finance):

- Microix & MIP program issues: both programs will not integrate
- Amplifund Software Program issues
- Looking into a new accounting software called “Intacct”
- Indirect cost proposal preparation bids with six firms
- Awarded to the lowest bid, DiFonzo Accounting, and Consulting, Miami, Ok

**Third Councilman, Isabella Clifford asked about the software issues and why they weren't working. Mr. Chase stated that he is confident with two of them, but Amplifund and Paylocity will not work.*

Where We Are, This Quarter (Finance):

- Working on the Software issues
- Exploring Intacct software program
- No findings with the audit report
- 2024 Indirect Cost Proposal, working with DiFonzo Accounting
- Tribal Programs Budget vs. Actual

Where We Are Going, Next Quarter (Finance):

- 2024 Indirect cost proposal submission – six-month turnaround by the Interior Business Center
- Moving forward with systems implementation
- Peoria Tribe is one nation, working and operating in different systems
- Review of Investments

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 09/15/22 Tentatively to be Approved by the Business Committee on 10/04/22 or at the Next Regularly Scheduled or Special Meeting”. No questions were asked by the Committee. Motion to approve the recommendations was made by Isabella Clifford and seconded by Hank Downum. Motion passed.

Resolution R-10-04-22-A, “Approval for Changes to the Peoria Tribal Membership Roll”: Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to approve Resolution R-10-04-22-A as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-10-04-22-B, “Resolution Proclaiming the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma to be a Purple Heart Nation”: Motion was made by Kara North and seconded by Hank Downum to approve Resolution R-10-04-22-B as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-10-04-22-C, “Resolution Accepting a Right-of-Way Offer from the Empire District Electric Company and Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Grant of Right-of-Way to Liberty Utilities”: Motion was made by Isabella Clifford and seconded by Rosanna Dobbs to approve Resolution R-10-04-22-C as presented. Motion passed.

Resolution R-10-04-22-D, “Resolution Supporting Submittal of The Housing Authority of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Fiscal Year 2022 Housing Rehabilitation Indian Community Development Block Grant”: Motion was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to approve Resolution R-10-04-22-D as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion/Approval for Annual Employee wage change recommendations: Following the discussion in Executive Session, a motion was made by Hank Downum and seconded by Kara North to approve the recommendations as recommended. Motion passed.

Discussion of a Needs Assessment for the Upcoming Wellness Center: Discussion with the Business Committee was had to discuss ideas for future planning. No action was taken.

Discussion of Future Planning and Update for Potential OCCA Ruling: Chief Harper introduced Judge Greg Bigler. Mr. Bigler provided information to the council regarding the potential OCCA ruling. 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” launches on October 10th, 2022. It will be made available on all podcast platforms.

Citizen Nick Hargrove asked about an update on Zoom! Chief Harper replied that this was previously explained and that an update was given in the reporting - along with pros/cons. Citizen and employee Wes Farless spoke up and stated that we need to consider how many citizens are truly advocating for Zoom. He further stated that interest in it peaks at first and then tapers off and that we need to carefully consider it before jumping in as there will be a lot of costs involved. Third Councilman Isabella Clifford inquired if a poll could be taken to gain an actual count of citizens who are really interested in it and would utilize it. Patrick Browne, CEO of Buffalo Run Casino & Resort, commented that internal business financials, potential future business moves, and the like, should not be shared to the public – which is the risk you take by opening it up to an online platform.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Carolyn Ritchey and seconded by Kara North to move into Executive Session at 8:27 pm. Motion passed.


Motion was made Hank Downum and seconded by Carolyn Ritchey to come out of Executive Session at 9:33 pm. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Rosanna Dobbs and seconded by Kara North. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm.



Authorized Signature



Date Approved