

Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Monday, August 4, 2014
Herbert R. O'Conor Building
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD

Chair: Robert F. Killen

Staff Present: E. Keith Colston, Jimmy Kwak, Agnes Smith

Commissioners Present: Chair Robert F. Killen, Virginia Busby, Rico Newman, Lisa Savoy, Rebecca Stone, Leanora E. Winters

Commissioners Absent: Vice Chair Ashley Minner, Patricia Carson

Chair Robert Killen called the meeting to order.

Newly appointed Commissioners introduced themselves.

Awards Ceremony

Former Commissioners, Guy Wells, Thomas Windsor, and Auriel Fenwick were presented with a Governor's Citation honoring them for their work in the community.

Administrative Report

E. Keith Colston

Attended the Piscataway Indians Annual Pow-Wow and Festival and presented a Governor's Citation. The Joint Commission Chairs meeting was held on July 7th. The MCI 2014 PowerPoint has been completed which will be used at outreach activities. Administrative Director E. Keith Colston served as a speaker for workshop on Native Americans in the DC Area in Waldorf. Around 25 DC area students attended the workshop, along with tribal leader Natalie Proctor.

Indian Village Patuxent River Park

Tanya Johnson
MD National Capitol Parks and Planning

The American Indian Village at Patuxent River Park will be an innovative outdoor exhibit. The exhibit will be a replicated village with various components giving visitors an opportunity to experience the life of indigenous peoples in Prince George's County. The exhibit will have structures based on historical documentation and records and will comply with safety standards. The exhibit will be free and visitors will be able to use their smartphone for a self-guided tour of the village. There will be open areas for events and activities and will also have a heritage trail right next to the exhibit. Would like the input of the Indian community.

Bald Friar Petroglyphs

Joanna Arcberg, Petrologist
Charlie Hall, Maryland Historical Trust

Create a new exhibit at the Susquehanna State Park to interpret the Bald Friar Petroglyphs. The stones containing the Bald Friar Petroglyphs were found three miles south of the Maryland State line. The stones have many designs known as a serpents head, containing circles and lines. The Stones were removed in the 1920's and have since been housed in many different museums and historical societies. The stones were collected and housed at Maryland Archeological Conservation Lab in Jefferson Patterson State Park. Money has been raised to move the stones to the Susquehanna State Park which is more indicative of their natural environment. In exhibiting the stones there are three goals: preserve the stones and keep them safe, provide public access, and interpret the stones. The stones will be in a temporary exhibit until the Carriage House is renovated in 2018 where the Bald Friar Petroglyphs will have a permanent exhibit on the first floor.

Committee Reports

Education Committee

Report submitted by Vice Chair Ashley Minner through e-mail. Title 7 Indian Education funding in Baltimore County has been approved for the 2014 school year. The Baltimore American Indian Center class of 2014 graduation took place on June 12th, Administrator E. Keith Colston assisted with the ceremony. Title 7 Indian Education students participated in a cultural summer camp.

Sweat Lodge Committee

Contacts haven't been made since May. Chair Killen would like Guy Wells to continue his work.

Unfinished Business

Elections

During the election process there were two nominations with the winning nomination being Chair Robert Killen.

Commission Chairs Meeting

Commission chairs and Vice Chairs and Committee Chairs came together in Annapolis to discuss best practices, what was working, and what could be improved. Discussing legacy and preparing for future successes in breakout sessions. Learn from other commissions by attending their meetings.

John Smith Water Trail

The Captain John Smith Advisory Committee took a tour of Powhatans from an archeological perspective. There needs to be more partnership with Maryland Tribes.

Accahanok Petition

There has been the establishment of a three person consideration panel. The panel is in the process of reviewing documents.

Natives in Foster Care Initiative

Created a PowerPoint for workshops scheduled for September and October. The PowerPoint can be reviewed by Commissioners once finalized.

New Business

MCI and MHT assisting Indigenous Peoples of Japan

The Ainu Indigenous group is in the northernmost part of Japan, Hokkaido. Law has been passed to inter 1,500 Ainu remains in Japan. The Japanese were interested in how Maryland interred our own native peoples. The representatives from Japan were able to visit where the Indians have been interred.

Joint Commission Collaboration

In the future, attend other commission meetings if possible.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is often a taboo issue and can encompass physical, emotional, and financial abuse. This is an issue occurring in the community.

By-Laws Changes

Change meetings from monthly to six times annually. On page 3, article 3, remove the word monthly. Changes will be handled offline.

Public Announcements

Chief Rudy gives thanks for prayers.

Day of Service Event

September 21st

Brief Program and Food Drive

STEM Career Fair

Morgan University

October 4, 2014

Engineering and Math Building

9:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Next Meeting

October 6, 2014

Chair Robert Killen Adjourned at 9:00 pm