

## **Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs**

February 1, 2016

Wineland Building

16 Francis Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

Annapolis, Maryland

7-9 p.m.

**Chair:** Lisa Savoy

**Staff Present:** Keith Colston, Agnes M. Smith

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Lisa Savoy, Vice Chair Ashley Minner, Virginia Busby, Bob Gajdys, Rico Newman, Rebecca Stone, Leanora Winters

**Commissioners Absent:** Donna Abbott, Robert Killen

### **Call to Order and Welcome Remarks/Invocation**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lisa Savoy who welcomed everyone to the first meeting for 2016.

Invocation Commissioner Bob Gajdys

### **Administrative Report**

Administrative Director Keith Colston's report included meetings, events, conferences including but not limited to his meeting with Senator Mathis Office and a representative of the Accohannock Tribe for their petition for Maryland Indian Status, met with the Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council about different initiatives, Emergency Support Function (ESF) emergency meetings for GOCI concerning storms (MEMA), and Foster Care initiative three years of planning to place Native Children with a Native family as much as possible.

### **Invited Guest Speakers**

#### **Dr. Joni Jones-Floyd – Director Banneker Douglass Museum and Director Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture**

Dr. Joni Jones-Floyd noted this is the first night for African American History Month. She spoke about an upcoming exhibit at the museum called "Lacrosse". They are going to profile eleven African American lacrosse players. The origin of lacrosse is an American Indian sport. Wants to partner with MCIA at opening Saturday, May 14, 2016. The exhibit will be there for six months. Dr. Floyd gave a request letter to the MCIA for their participation in the opening reception for the exhibition as an invitation and to give a brief history.

Commissioner Bob Gajdys spoke about what lacrosse meant to him and he would love to participate.

Commissioner Rebecca Stone asked if they would consider honoring a Native American at the exhibition. It was noted yes with the roots from Maryland.

Vice Chair Ashley Minner noted that the Baltimore American Indian Center has a lacrosse program and she can put Dr. Floyd in touch with them.

Dr. Floyd noted that the U.S. Lacrosse, Charm City Lacrosse and STX have already partnered with them.

### **Minutes**

The following changes need to be made to minutes: Bob Gajdys correction of name; Jefferson Patterson Park 46% increase for the initial 1<sup>st</sup> year and drop Johnson off Commissioner Rebecca Stone's name.

Motion to approve minutes with noted changes

1<sup>st</sup> Rico Newman

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Gajdys

Minutes Approved with Changes

### **Committee Reports**

Advisory Committee Chair Savoy – no meeting held

Educational Committee – Vice Chair Minner shared the Educational Committee yearend report which included meetings held in January and September; accomplishments reestablished contact with Maryland State Department of Education Social Studies Office, access to the Community College of Baltimore County Native Studies curriculum, comprehensive listing of resources and benefits available to American Indian students at University of Maryland College Park, supported the Annual Baltimore American Indian Center Graduation Ceremony, reestablished contact with Charles County Public Schools Title VII Indian Education Program, recruited to the National Museum of the American Indian Teachers Advisory Group, Indian Education for All document to be made available to anyone seeking such a resource in the State, support to Baltimore County Public Schools toward implementation of a Title VII Indian Education Program, data to prove that funding and programs for Indian students is needed to be used to write legislation, a system to apprise Maryland's tribal communities via MCIA of educational offerings throughout the State, resources for homeless American Indian students in Maryland's colleges and universities, development of a curriculum for students on the waterways of the Accohannock homeland which would help satisfy the Statewide high school student environmental competency requirement and recruitment of additional committee members; future projects include support for an ongoing exchange between Charles County and Baltimore City Title VII Indian Education Programs and a continuation of the past curriculum project with the Maryland State Department of Education.

This month's updates include Educational Chair Minner has been recruited to the Teacher Advisory Group for the National Museum of the American Indian, met with Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Equity and Cultural Proficiency to discuss the need for Title VII Indian Education, noted that Committee Member Dr. Dennis Seymour is personally making a difference for homeless Native students enrolled at CCBC, Title VII Indian Education Formula Grant Application Part I is open; 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pathkeepers Native Youth Leadership Camp in Culpeper, VA, is now accepting applications (all Native students eligible ages 11-16) and she's been

contacted by Catelin Aiwohi of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs with regard to a historic landing of the Hōkūe's anticipated in Washington DC on May 18, 2016.

Archaeology Committee – Commissioner Virginia Busby also spoke about the Hōkūe's through the Accokeek Foundation. She noted she introduced and maintained presence of Maryland Tribes and Indian people as important to conservation and water quality through participation in 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Environment Landscape efforts of Park Services meeting; rivers of the Chesapeake land and water conservation collaborative omnibus appropriations bill approved by the House and Senate includes \$10.7 million for land conservation in the Chesapeake, aggressively promoting Maryland Indian tourism as rich and authentic economic engine for Maryland, MCIa a robust partner in promoting Maryland Heritage Preservation and Heritage Tourism to include participating in the Maryland Heritage Council meeting; archaeological discoveries of a major Indian town with occupation stretching back centuries at Merkle Wildlife Refuge near Croom presented by St. Mary's College archaeologists to the public, MHT & JPPM partner with a grant proposal create a teachers' learning opportunities about Maryland Indians and finalize MCIa/MHT Section 106 consultation plans.

John Smith Water Trail – Commissioner Busby noted the Trail is 10 years old. The Dominion Power Powerline over the James and impacts to historic properties no resolution, Potomac River Segment Plan is completed, Initial River Consultation for Lower Susquehanna River Segment completed, a series of six videos with real Chesapeake people narrating each of the six activity types (5 minutes) to be widely shared with partners including tourism offices, expanding the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Geo-Caching Trail and initiating a kids and kayak trail.

Commissioner Rico Newman spoke about the resolution about the Conowingo Dam and how it impacts on the Chesapeake Bay. Letters were sent to Secretary of the Interior Jewell and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tidwell in reference to the same information about the Chesapeake Bay. Actions to curtail the Land Water Conservation Fund would stop the federal government from putting in its funds. Received response in September from both secretaries. On January 11, 2016 the LWCF has been fully funded. The Bay will stay healthy. He attended a presentation at Merkle Wildlife where there were some interesting artifacts found at sight.

JPPM Elizabeth Hughes and Rachel Green heading up proposal about telecommunicating with getting information directly into classrooms. It was noted she was given information to contact MSDE about the project worked on for about two years. Waiting to see if they qualify for a grant.

Commissioner Busby spoke about American Indian Heritage Month and the National Trust program for Indigenous places; BAIC, Choptank Reservation, Piscataway Park, Accokeek, etc.

Economic and Social Welfare Committee – Commissioner Bob Gajdys spoke about the curator at JPPM moving back to Kentucky. The 1<sup>st</sup> year JPPM hosted 14,000 children 5&6 graders 46% fir year tourism \$\$\$. Found monies to get curator back full time job \$38,880 to \$61,691 a year. Spring will be back teaching thousands of kids.

Budget and Finance Committee – (Closed Session)

Health and Mental Health Committee – Commissioner Rebecca Stone noted she’s met with different recruits. Last year sent out letters to 4 people and received 1 back. The tentative schedule for this year March 7 Columbia Library Howard County, May 2, July 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, August and November

### **Old Business/New Business**

Administrative Director Colston announced the 2016 American Indian Legislative Reception will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at the House Office Building. Seminar with Greg Richardson and Troy Adkins from North Carolina to discuss history, barrios and success, what recognition does, questions and answers from visiting public. All MCIA meetings for 2016 will be held at Department of Budget Management, 45 Calvert Street, 164 A/B, Annapolis MD.

Executive Director Steve McAdams noted the seminar goal is to pull everyone together to work to get as many State recognized. Other state benefitting economically, legislative night, and economic opportunities especially Eastern Shore

Each committee chair gave a synopsis of the committee and its goals.

It was noted economic can cure most/all issues... opportunities to better enhance

### **Public Announcements**

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn

1<sup>st</sup> Bob Gajdys

2<sup>nd</sup> Rico Newman

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.