

SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, June 26, 2023	TIME PLACE	6pm CDT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Scott B Goode	Present - Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present - Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present - Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present	Earlyne Gentry	Present
Diana Baker	Present	Jo Lynn Gentry	Not Present
Yvonne Perryman- Matthews	Present	Others Present	Jim Gray via Zoom

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:17pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting.	Carrie
	Housekeeping <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Date Today ii. Jim Gray meeting with us 	Natalie
	Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Jim Gray – Osage Nation Sovereignty and their Unique Challenges • Working Document: Preamble + Name + Our Unique Challenges Regarding Treaty Rights and Historical Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1789 Red Jacket recognized as authority • Pre and Post Removal Treaties • Naming Conventions + Historical Tribal Structures 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further Community Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter – survey shortlink, summary of work done, our 3 main points, late July deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pictures of us to recognize at events? • Mass Text Notification system – link to survey • Listening Session scheduling and possible dates – Quarterly Zooms to update tribal members? • General Council meeting before Greencorn? 	
Minutes Begin		
6:17pm	Housekeeping – Jim Gray enters meeting shortly after	Natalie
	<p>Yvonne Introduces Jim Gray – served as Chief for his Osage people during their second governmental reform.</p> <p>Osage-unique situation relies on 1906 Osage Allotment Laws – the move from Kansas to Indian Territory caused mass population loss, from 20k to ~1400</p> <p>Constitutional Government in effect prior to Statehood in 1907, Osage Nation were the last holdouts and signed a land deal in 1906 that only gave surface rights to the land and made all subsurface rights communally owned. Oil had been discovered in the area but the amount unknown at the time. They were the last tribe to accept allotment, their tribal rolls closed once the 1906 Act was completed and this disenfranchised many. The 1906 Act includes provisions for the running of a Tribal Council and its procedures.</p> <p>Tribal Council could really only pass resolutions, BIA continued to hold paternalistic control due to govt approval required. Subsurface rights brought family killings, guardianships, outrageous fees and close control over Osage people until the FBI stepped in. In the 1930s and 40s the OIWA passed over Osage people due to 1906 Act, was amended in order to be included in OIWA.</p> <p>1980s Osage citizens went to Federal Court to reorganize under a more democratic govt, there was limited franchisement based on allotment act rights given. Federal Court did decide that yes it is undemocratic and there are unintended consequences but it is not the Court's responsibility to fix it. Tribal Council was the de facto Tribal Government.</p> <p>Govt Reform was ordered by the BIA and there was representation from multiple parties, Renard Strickland chaired the effort. New Constitution was approved in 1993 by referendum, diminished Tribal Council power. New Govt had difficulties in funding, continued for 2 years.</p>	

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	<p>In 2002 Jim Gray ran for Chief on platform of reform, fix allottee issues and Tribal Council favorable to this voted in as well. They worked to reaffirm sovereignty by filing federal legislation with US Congress that would allow reorganization under inherent sovereignty, Public Law 108-431.</p> <p>Independent Commission with a 300k+ budget created to contact those disenfranchised and unhappy with current form of tribal government. Went from 3-4k voting shareholders to 17k named citizens. Jim Gray focused on casino investment to generate funds that would fund this Commission, buy land back, and invest in language and culture preservation.</p> <p>The Tribal Planner put together a structure of By Laws for the Commission to work off of. Elected Tribal Government stepped back from the Commission. Some shareholders did react to change, there is always that element in this work. Pitchland and Williams were the lawyers hired by the Commission. Work completed in 1 year and was mailed out, had walk-in votes, and passed with 67% approval.</p> <p>Discussion over Seneca-Cayuga Nation-specific circumstances, similarities and differences between Osage Nation experiences</p> <p>Need to contact BIA identified, begin that process of working with them in their trustee capacity to show that our government has rarely worked the way it should be, evidence to presented. Coming to trustee in order to save them the litigation. Follow-up with Dennis needed regarding procedure to contact.</p> <p>Being open and transparent will allow us to have tribal members feel heard and have agency in the document and being more likely to pass. Further focus needed on best ways to maintain transparency.</p> <p>Codes of Ethics and provisions for removal needed when not included in older legislation. Osage Nation needs 10 of 12 in tribunal to remove Councilperson.</p> <p>Advance, protect, preserve language and culture is written into the Osage Constitution, this wording allows buckets of funding to be created for each verb</p>	
7:51pm	Jim Gray Parts Ways – Unanimous Committee Break	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
8:04pm	Return of all present Committee Members	
	<p>Discussion on Further Community Outreach</p> <p>Newsletter – late July deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to schedule listening sessions • Plan to open up Committee meetings when there is more substance/specific discussion to be had • QR code to survey as well as Constitution <p>Text Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall on Saturday before Greencorn, August 5, 1pm-4pm @ Community Building (food needed) • Natalie to create basic outline and speak with Joanna regarding construction and availability of the Community Building + video wall • Get group approval on outline and bring to Nicole <p>Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Few new responses (~3 since last meeting) • No need for survey deadlines, allows people their voice in the process for the length of our work 	
	<p>Discussion over budget and need to increase expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible Consultant line item – needed now or later? • Possible Lawyer line item • Possible catering for Town Hall line item 	
	<p>Discussion over contacting Muskogee Superintendent, contacting Dennis</p>	
8:30pm	<p>Motion #8 (Scott/Earlyne) - motion to approach BC to request additional funding of 1. up to \$5000 as a retainer for consultant 2. \$1000 for Town Halls expenses related to the Saturday prior to Green Corn (expecting 300ppl) - unanimous committee vote – motion carried</p>	
	<p>Action Items Discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie to ask Joanna if community building is available Aug 5 2023 from 1-4pm • Bert to come in and speak to Dennis regarding BIA contact for notification of government reform + budget line items 	

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	Discussion over Preamble and what we need to be including for people to understand who we are and what our historicity is here	
9:02pm	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – June 05, 2023 minutes spoken to, no corrections or amendments to the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>06/26/2023</u> the minutes of <u>06/05/2023</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>6/28/2023</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	Natalie
9:02pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	