



# SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, January 29 2024	TIME PLACE	6pm CT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Scott B Goode	Not Present
Carrie Kneeland	Present – Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present – Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present – Zoom	Earlyne Gentry	Present later - Zoom
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present - Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present
Yvonne Perryman- Matthews	Present	Others Present	N/A

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:00pm	<p><b>Called to Order</b> - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting. All members except Earlyne present for the Approval of Previous Minutes.</p>	Carrie
	<p><b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b> – Jan 15, 2024 minutes spoken to, several minor changes for ease of reading made on the record – minutes <b>APPROVED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>CERTIFICATION</b></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>On <u>01/29/2024</u>, the minutes of <u>01/15/2024</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>02/06/2024</u>.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u><i>Natalie Dixon</i></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Natalie Dixon, Secretary</b></p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<b>Housekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Roll Call</li> <li>ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – JAN 15 2024</li> <li>iii. Confirmation of next meeting – FEB 12 2024</li> </ul>	Natalie
	<b>Planned Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housekeeping</li> <li>• Secretary's Review</li> <li>• Finalizing Town Hall Plans</li> <li>• Code of Ethics – Yvonne and Angela</li> <li>• Preamble – Earlyne</li> <li>• Oath of Office</li> <li>• Corporate Charter</li> <li>• Open Forum</li> <li>• Next Constitution meeting 02/12/2024 @ 6pm</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes Begin</b>		
	<b>Secretary's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Advisory Report – not been sent out yet, can be sent out another time so as to focus on Town Hall first</li> <li>• Quapaw Constitution Committee will be at our next regular meeting, February 12, 2024, they will arrive at 6:30pm</li> </ul>	
	<b>Discussion regarding the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the thoroughness of their Tribal Government Documents</b>	
	<b>Scott not present, will wait to address Corporate Charter powers until he is present.</b>	
6:14pm	<b>Earlyne arrives</b>	
	<b>Return to discussion regarding Poarch Band of Creek Indians Constitution and Titles and proposed Code of Ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similarities and differences to our Constitution</li> </ul>	



TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quasi-judicial body in use in original documents, is something that may be a good fit based on previous experiences of lacking a named judicial branch in CFR court</li> <li>• Adapted Ethics Ordinance would cover all tribal citizens as well as non-tribal citizens, elected officials and employees and people affiliated with Seneca-Cayuga Nation</li> <li>• Ethics Committee would be created <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Would investigate alleged violations and report to the Grievance Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historically Grievance Committee has only been the watchdog of the BC but an Ethics Committee would expand the powers/purview of the Grievance Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Would serve akin to a prosecutor</li> <li>○ Grievance Committee would serve as judge</li> <li>○ “Primary management official” used in CFR court and NIGC is the term that would cover elected officials as well as the individuals who have responsibility delegated to them by elected officials</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Proposed Code of Ethics on the table includes sanctioning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sanctioning can mean anything from a verbal reprimand up to the withholding of tribal benefits and/or disqualification for office, would depend on the acts done</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Due process can look like (but is not limited to) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Standards for violations</li> <li>○ Access to attorneys</li> <li>○ Ability to call witnesses</li> <li>○ Proper notice for all parties</li> <li>○ Transparency for all people</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Further debate regarding the proposed Ethics Committee and changes to Grievance Procedure</li> <li>• Need established for the Code of Ethics to include contractors acting on behalf of the Nation</li> <li>• Need established to incorporate an appeals process and review the current HR manual for compatibility</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Finalizing Town Hall logistics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video wall – to stream or not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Natalie has bought cords, may or may not need outside help to stream this time</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Agenda</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ethics – the big document is not ready, may create a visual map, provide definitions, outline the provisions for a violation</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion regarding the origin of authority of powers of the Nation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act creates the authority to incorporate</li> <li>• Powers previously outlined for the Business Committee were named in the Constitution and Corporate Charter</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Return to discussion on Town Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quorum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most have said leave quorum and 150mi radius alone</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ At-Large representation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Post flyer on Facebook Group(s) for folks</li> <li>• Include Enrollment data</li> <li>• Motion made and failed, no second, regarding agreeing to keep the radius qualifications of officers at 150mi, as is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need Town Hall input on radius</li> <li>○ Can write up evidentially – quantify the number of our responses or “the majority of our feedback indicated”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Oath of Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More input needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion regarding the preamble</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elders have told Committee members it should remain the same</li> <li>• Committee finds a need to include more information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can add the “Objective” to the preamble</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians preamble</li> <li>• This is the point where we add language and culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Also a place for our treaties, history, and names</li> <li>○ Include the word Hodinḡhsḡ:nih</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Include different preambles from other tribes, including those already reviewed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Poarch Band of Creek Indians</li> <li>○ Osage Nation</li> <li>○ Mashantucket Pequot Tribe</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Return to Town Hall agenda</b></p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibly talk about blood quantum and “will remain at 4/4” but it needs to be done with care, this is probably not the place this time</li> <li>• Add Code of Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We can't do traditional codes/titles as that is outside of the scope of our work but we can review the language</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Quorum</li> <li>• 150mi radius, enrollment states, at-large representation</li> <li>• Oath of Office</li> <li>• Preamble from Earlyne and Bert, include other tribes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Communications scheduling for Town Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natalie to draft texts from previously approved materials to be sent out this week for Town Hall</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Discussion regarding ongoing Facebook group polling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No questions needed to continue, will revisit after Town Hall</li> </ul>	
8:37pm	<b>5 minute break</b>	
8:45pm	<b>Resume meeting with Jo Lynn, Carrie, Angela, Natalie, Kristi present for the rest of the meeting</b>	
	<p><b>February 12, 2024 @ 6pm meeting agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss Town Hall results and community discussion</li> <li>• Touch on the Corporate Charter if Scott is present</li> <li>• Then meet with the Quapaw Constitution Committee</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Open Forum</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion regarding grants for funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The application period for the federal grant as mentioned by the Quapaw is closed and no longer available.</li> <li>○ Can review grants.com for future funding to pass on to the Nation, there is a need for more stable funding</li> <li>○ Current grand writer for the tribe is a COVID-19 and related monies focus</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
	<b>Confirmation of next regular meeting on February 12, 2024 @ 6pm</b>	
8:51pm	<b>Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus</b>	