

NORTH DAKOTA NATIVE TOURISM ALLIANCE

January 22, 2020 at 10am
Phone Conference
Board of Directors Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:23am by President Les Thomas

2. Roll Call

Present: Les Thomas- President, Turtle Mountain Band
Darin Morsette -Vice-President, MHA Nation
Selina LaFontaine- Secretary/Treasurer, Turtle Mountain Band
Jen Martel – Board Member, Standing Rock Tribe
Doug Sevigny, Board Member, Spirit Lake Nation

Quorum Determine

NOT Present

Warren Hawk– Standing Rock Tribe – Excused
Tamara St. John – Wahpeton Sisseton Oyate – Excused
Colette Brown – Spirit Lake Nation - Excused
Jason Morsette - MHA- Excused

NDNTA Advisory Committee Members

None

Others Present

None

3. Opening Prayer by Les Thomas

4. Agenda Review – No Conflict of Interest

Les would like to add to the agenda under new business a). Grant Proposals and under new business b). NDNTA - Executive Discussion

Les entertains the motion to add Oct., Nov., and Dec of 2019 for today's meeting as having met but no quorum was determined as board members were out of town on business trips and a board member has passed away with another board member becoming a council member of their tribe. Darian makes the motion. Jen seconds the motion. **All in favor, NO Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

Les makes the statement that if anyone wants to change/or add to the agenda as we proceed, they can.

5. Approval Of Agenda

Les asks for the Approval of the Agenda. Darian makes the motion to accept the agenda with add to agenda under new business a). Grant Proposals. new business b.) NDNTA Executive Discussion and

adding the past attempts to have a scheduled monthly call in meeting. Les calls for the motion. Darian makes the motion. Jen seconds the motion. Agenda accepted at 10:30am. Discussion held. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried**

6. Approval of August 6, 2019 Meeting minutes - Tabled for February 4, 2020 Les calls for the motion to table. Darian makes motion. Jen Seconds. Discussion Held. Selina explains that she has moved her office from the tribal office to the Sky Dancer Casino and is currently without an office or access to a computer or internet service and she has no direct phone line. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

7. Treasurer's Report

Selina gives an update and will provide a copy to all.

Copy will be on file. Bank History Summary, for October through December of 2019 Bank statements. no new revenues. No new expenditures. Balance of \$18,060.45. Les calls for a vote to accept the treasurer's report. Darian makes the motion accept the Treasurer's report. Doug seconds the motion. Discussion held. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

8. New Business

- a) Grant Proposals

Les gives an update from the Government to Government Summit. Ed Hall III was also there to give an update on what the BIA through the Transportation division has coming out soon. Grant money for market tourism studies. Les states we should go after that. Selina states that the tribes can go after these most likely through their tribal planning office. Ed stated that an announcement will be made very soon.

Les states that we should go after the Otto Bremer again. Darian states Mr. President, we can not go after that till after a year.

Les states we can go after Bush Foundation and the NorthWest Area Foundation as well and we need to check into those. No further discussion.

- b) NDNTA Executive Discussion

Went into executive session at 10:49am. Back in Meeting at 11:30am

9. Old Business

- a.) NDNTA's 990's Urgent

Les asked if we should table this for Feb 4, 2020 meeting as Anna from GW has requested the meeting and has that on topic to discuss. Selina asked to be heard. Selina stated that we should not wait on the 990's as Stacey has been alerted by IRS we are in jeopardy of losing our 501. C3 status as the 990's for the last three years have not been filed. Please allow Stacey and I to work on these before February meeting and in this meeting to authorize for us to pay for the filing cost and if we need to hire someone to file for us. Les states we can pay up to \$250 if we need to pay Stacey or a person outside to file on our behalf plus the filing cost. Selina stated that she can work with Stacey on the 990's filing. Les calls for the motion. Doug makes the motion. Jen seconds the motion. Discussion held. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

- b.) Legal Counsel –

Les mentioned that the Larson firm in Bismarck email address and to send to Greg through Robin Coleman, rcoleman@bismarcklaw.com. Les states he will follow up with a phone to Robin as they are in their hands.

- c.) Bylaws with amendments - Discussion and add to Feb 4, 2020 Meeting with Anna and Stacey.

d.) BODs Insurance Quotes - Tabled

e.) Budget Proposal with new changes - Tabled

f.) ED Position out for hire/contract - Tabled

g.) Strategies with work plan updates - Tabled

d through g are tabled until we can meet and hear what GW is recommending plus having more board members in meeting. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried.**

h.) New Board Members - Standing Rock -

Jen is recommending for Warren Hawk to be placed as an Advisor for NDNTA. Discussion was held. no motion was placed.

Jen informed the board that Warren recommended Barb Little Owl as his replacement on the board. Fred McLaughlin. Discussion held. No motion

Recommendations are to have the potential board members send to Selina their resume, Bio and explanation of how they can help NDNTA. Selina will reach out to them and have something by Feb 4th meeting. Selina stated that in our August training with Megan that it was recommended when we are recruiting new members for the board seat to have a criteria set in place.

9. Tribal Updates

MHA Nation - Darin states that Jason is gone to AIANTA. MHA was declined with their request to host an annual AIANTA Conference.

Darian states he has been working on their mainstreet with a strategic plan with partners that include tribal, state and local and it is coming along good.

Darian states that MHA is planning a Great Plains Convention so just heads up and more details coming soon.

Darian made a request for us to look into revamping our NDNTA logo and if we can stop using the dark grey skies and Teepee. Jen is wondering if we should do a call to artist on each of our reservations. More discussion needed. All agree to stop using the grey skies and teepee.

Darian makes a request for us to reach out to Tamera about if she is staying on the board and to look for another couple of new members and if so are they coming on board with their contribution or are they SD tourism.

Spirit Lake Nation- Doug stated that he is having budget problems, hopefully it will be resolved soon. Spirit Lake is having their Tribal Leadership meeting today.

Doug plans to apply for the outdoor heritage fund for the trail project.

Standing Rock – Jen will be attending the SD G2G with GW

Jen has a tourism leadership team. Warren, Barb, Fred ?? (I didn't catch if there was more added).

Jen is on the World WildLife Tourism Group and will get us more information about it and what they do and possibly some grants.

College tours are starting back up and she is looking for additional help with everyday duties. Jen is

wanting to have more art projects at the center.

Turtle Mountain – Selina stated that she met with her leadership team last night and that they have started to lay down the step by step details for the identified experiences. Selina stated that TM has their TMCC on board for the tourism training in April. Also, discussion on future trainings in Events, Hotel, Hospitality and tourism for others wanting to get a certificate which could lead TMCC creating courses.

Selina states it is important for you guys to have your colleges on board so that they can become the training sites for tourism. GW will eventually weed themselves out of being our technical support.

Selina updates more on her move back to Sky Dancer and that the Sky Dancer has a 10yr business plan which tourism is a big part for sky dancer to attract new visitors.

Sky Dancer will be starting construction soon on a new waterpark. Also Gary Allen will be here in June.

Les states that everyone should go after the outdoor heritage fund and its has only been TM who has been. Les states that Lyle Poitra can write their grants if they need a grant writer. Call Holiday about a USDA grant or loan for any of their possible projects. Megan from StrenthenND can also assist with some grant writing.

Discussion: Selina asked about the request from Anna GW to be able to go over the items for discussion on Feb 4th or if we are giving permission to let her conduct the meeting. Les states that we can turn over to her for those specific topics.

Adjournment

Les asks for a motion to adjourn. Darian makes the motion to adjourn. Second by Doug. **All in Favor, No Abstentions, Motion Carried Adjourned at 12:15am.**

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: February 4, 2020