



OCCANEECHI BAND OF THE SAPONI NATION, INC.

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Physical Location: 4902 Daily Store Road – Burlington, NC 27217

Meeting Minutes

The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation meeting was held via Zoom (virtual) on July 11th, 2024. Tony Hayes, Tribal Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A quorum was present.

Vickie Jeffries, Tribal Administrator, conducted the roll call; Tony Hayes, Chair; Brice Watkins, Vice Chair; Beverly Payne, Tribal Council; and Tammy Hayes-Hill.

Tribal Members Present: Anna Jeffries, Benita Rayner, Coda Cavalier, Corey Roberts, Crystal Cavalier-Keck, Eddie Lambert, Keisha Enoch, Barbara Martin-Lipscomb, Lawrence Dunmore, Loraine Clay(?), Phoenix Qayyum, Rachel Clay, and Wanda Whitmore.

Prayer: Tony Hayes.

Motion to adopt agenda from Beverly Payne, Tammy Hayes-Hill second. Motion carried to accept the agenda.

Minutes approved as read without corrections.

Executive Reports Chairperson's Report: Tony Hayes

Legislature

Bertie County and Roanoke County Indians vying for recognition need additional information. Catawba, already federally recognized in SC, is up for review, putting them in a unique position.

We are planning an Indian business summit for business and fellowship. Duke Energy, Sysco, IBM, and BCBS have signed up. The event title is the Indian Business Summit. There is a potential opportunity for Indian inclusion in DEI.

Commission

We are still working on legislation to fund the tribes and organizations for youth programs, which will be in the next session.

HB385/Tribal Position Against Protests

Carteret County developer: We are denouncing this activity. A portion of the bill has been rectified, and we are looking to put together an identification protocol for future situations. The bill has been updated to remove all the questionable items. Developer items are still in progress.

Social media: We are trying to create a protocol to ensure the Tribe's integrity and respect individual rights to post information regarding the Tribe and Tribal activity.

Questions

Eddie Lambert, project 2025 affecting Indian communities? TH – no offerings yet. Eddie will follow once more information is received.

Tribal Administrator Reports: Vickie Jeffries

Treasurer Report

There are no outstanding items. The budget format is different due to more items and to make it more readable. Precisely 305 cards have been printed since the purchase of the Badgepass System.

Questions

Benita Rayner: Can you send a photo or jpeg? VJ-Yes. THH, can it be used to get a real ID? It's a valid NC ID. TH—delayed real ID and tied into tribal cards for real ID.

Link for future Tribal Council Meetings

A Zoom link will be posted on the OBSN website for the Tribal Council meetings, starting with the July meeting. THH confirmed the link worked and that she did not need to put in a Password or meeting ID. VJ will send THH the Zoom links to post on the website. VJ confirmed she will not send them out via email and that anyone can access them directly from the Website.

General Maintenance: Renovation of Trading Post

Old trading post was demolished. The new Trading Post will have electricity, a front double door, a single door for checkout, two windows, and two ceiling fans. It can also be used for gatherings because of the additional space. The completion date will be the week of July 15th. For the Powwow setup, inventory can be left in Trading Post because it is lockable. The elders saw it and suggested a name, the Trading Post *Blackfeather's Trading Post*, to honor John Black feather. VJ will have a sign made. The majority of meeting attendees agree.

Graveling of Powwow entrance (scheduled for the end of July)

Graveling gate entrance to avoid soggy grounds next week. Duke Energy grant funded it.

Questions

THH—Are vendor spaces graveled? VJ—No. THH mentioned that it is needed because the vendors' vehicles, which are heavily loaded, tend to get stuck.

Meetings: (1) Alliance regarding A250, Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, (2) BCBS Learning Call: The third payment of \$1000,00 was received regarding grant funding follow-up. (3) NC Medical Board will submit information for the monthly newsletter. (4) **DAR (Daughters of the Revolution- Little Library** (<https://littlefreelibrary.org/>) A Little Free Library will be placed at the Tribal Center in August, and it will not cost the tribe anything. A small dedication will take place on August 24th.

Website Manager Report, Tammy Hayes-Hill

Detailed report sent to the tribal council. Sales for June 2024 are \$874.65. Sales from the June 15th history event and the rest from the website.

OYA Ambassador Report: Gianni Lacey-Howard, Chair

There is no report currently.

Old Business: Community Meeting Update. (Tony Hayes, Tribal Chairperson)

Meetings are to be held every quarter. Wanda Penner suggested by Powwow that we have flyers and info with the dates to plan for the meetings. VJ asked if WP would put together a flyer; they will work together on a flyer. Phoenix Qayyum asked if the meetings would be in person, and VJ responded they

would be hybrid (both) and one of the community meetings in person. WP suggested Spring for the in-person meeting for the longer days before it gets hot.

New Business/Upcoming Events. (Vickie Jeffries, Tribal Administrator)

Upcoming Events

We are working on various workshops on history and culture, language, plant knowledge, ribbon skirts, and more. We will send out a blast email with the dates. These workshops promise to be educational and enjoyable. Sam Burnette will present a workshop on “Pleasant Grove Ancestors” at the tribal center on August 24th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will be in-person and virtual.

North Carolina American Indian Historical Commission

Forest Hazel reported that on July 24th, they would be meeting regarding the situation in Carteret County. Vickie will attend that meeting and will report back. It is suggested that the commission take the lead on this process. The National Register of Historical Places suggested Kerri Byrd. TH stated that the commission would provide back-up support.

The floor opened for questions from the Tribal Community.

Loraine Clay(?): Cameron Clay attends Columbia University and will be doing his first thesis film project at Allen’s Chapel in Roxboro, NC. We are invited to participate in Jesus is Coming, a sci-fi movie with a 1970s theme. Wrap it up on Saturday from 10 a.m.

Keisha Enoch reported that Occaneechi's name was being used on Amazon merchandise. I asked if the seller was of Occaneechi descent, and the response was not specified. THH saw this about a year ago and reported it to VJ but cannot do anything about it unless the OBSN Tribal seal is used. TH will write a strong letter and check with OBSN attorney Liz Walker and will call on other tribal leaders about their tribal name being used for Amazon merchandise. Benita Rayner saw the same merchandise on Etsy, which has the same items, and the Powwow shirt design is being used. Wanda Penner suggested putting disclaimers on the Tribal website regarding items being sold on Amazon, Etsy, etc. THH will work on compiling a disclaimer and have the OBSN Executive Committee and Liz Walker, Tribal Attorney, review it before posting. We must protect our branding and trademark and belong to tribes/elders. Corey Roberts suggested every time there is a new image on a product, it needs to be trademarked. Wanda Penner looked it up, and the company is based in CA.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

The next meeting is August 8th, 2024, at 6:30 PM. The Zoom link and information will be posted on the website.

Submitted by Tammy Hayes-Hill