



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, January 15, 2024	TIME PLACE	6pm CT Zoom only	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present later - Zoom	Scott B Goode	Present - Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present - Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present - Zoom
Natalie Dixon	Present - Zoom	Earlyne Gentry	Present - Zoom
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present - Zoom	Jo Lynn Gentry	Not Present
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present - Zoom	Others Present	N/A

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:00pm	<p>Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's regular Constitution Committee meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – January 01, 2024 minutes spoken to, minor spelling corrections and 1 bullet point wording reviewed on the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>01/15/2024</u> the minutes of <u>01/01/2024</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>01/18/2024</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u><i>Natalie Dixon</i></u> Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	Natalie
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">i. Roll Call</p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – JAN 01 2024 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – JAN 29 2024 	
	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Reply to Quapaw Constitution Committee email • Email from Secretary-Treasurer regarding SCN Constitution Advisory Committee • Facebook Polling Response and Questions • Update from Scott on Corporate Charters • Initial Advisory Report – Work to be Divvied • Open Forum • Next Constitution meeting 01/29/2024 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) discusses contact with the Quapaw Constitution Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of initial email, our Chair's reply, their Chair's reply • Discussion on the Native Nations Institute link shared by Quapaw via emails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://live-azs-nnconstitutions.pantheonsite.io/ ○ Link provided to all CAC members for their review ○ March 23-24 possible meeting including representatives 	
7:08pm	Roberta arrives, discussion resumes	
	<p>Review of email sent by Secretary-Treasurer regarding the terms of the CAC and Business Committee wishes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [relevant bulk parts of email included in text, full email read out to Committee members] “The Business Committee discussed and decided that the end date of 4/15/2024 will remain in effect. At that time, we will review your report/presentation and assess where we’re at and address any time extension that may be needed.” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CAC Chair's reply read out, mentions having to cancel Town Halls depending on if we are asked to stop working as there is a Town Hall scheduled after the April 15, 2024 date ○ Chair's Report 1 dated Tuesday, July 11, 2023 and the following week's Meeting Minutes includes 	

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	<p>report from the Business Committee agreeing to extend our working date until May 31, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further discussion regarding the resetting of Committee end date, if this means we will be able to address General Council at the Annual Meeting this year, if there is too big a financial burden on the Nation with this work, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business Committee (BC) response has been favorable towards this Committee, don't think want to terminate this work, the BC may just need more proof of concept hence the request for a report before agreeing to let this work continue 	
	<p>Discussion regarding previous Constitution Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott was on both, has been more than 10 years since the last one, maybe 12 or 15 years total • Also Diana Baker, former CAC member was on at least one 	
	<p>Discussion regarding insulating this work from political change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Council should be the ones to consent for this group to do a Constitutional rewrite <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can be done via motion at an Annual Meeting of the General Council, so that the General Council's Resolution cannot be overturned by any administrations that want to stop this work • Even if our work is halted before completion or is otherwise not acted upon, the documents we have created have weight and this knowledge will not disappear from our community 	
	<p>Discussion regarding the Initial Advisory Report and work remaining to be done, Committee members will draft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the Nation - Roberta • Preamble – Earlyne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If folks have already been working on one then they can send to Earlyne • Membership of the Nation – Natalie • Membership of the Council – Carrie and Roberta • Table of authorities, index of authorities – document used in legal proceedings to refer back to the bases for any given decision or legal opinion it is attached to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Header – Subject Matter ○ Body – Relevant authorities/references/citations 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Charter Powers discussion on Jan 29, can discuss who will draft then 	
	<p>Update from Scott on Corporate Charter Powers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Section 17 and Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act (OIWA) Section 3 originally dictated the forming of chartered business under tribes outside and inside of Oklahoma respectively Many tribes today have passed their own laws to incorporate or charter tribal businesses under tribal laws, this allows for easier amendment, as federally-organized charters must go through a Secretarial Election to be amended, tribal laws set their own processes for that amendment Couldn't find a Section 3 OIWA charter newer than the 1950s Provided to CAC is a Section 17 IRA organized corporate charter from the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe that provides an example of other corporate charter styles Further discussion regarding a corporate charter, how it's made, how it operates today which is the BC is named on every board of a chartered business and boards change each time a new Business Committee is elected, there is a need to stop having politics define our businesses, but this is through corporate charter amendment and not Constitutional amendment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As it is there is a need to insulate businesses from the negative effects of regularly changing leaders every set number of years Casino and Tobacco are chartered this way 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Tribal Employment Rights Officer (TERO) in protecting tribal citizens from political issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no current recourse for employed tribal citizens who are unfairly impacted by regular political elections as prescribed in our Constitution – HR exists to protect the organization and not citizens Possibility of the ability to establish and/or hire/fire a TERO being a power that falls under the General Council's purview? 	
	<p>Return to discussion regarding Initial Advisory Report drafting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Ethics – Yvonne and Angela Duties of Officers – Carrie Vocabulary/Glossary - Natalie 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Summary – Kristi and Natalie • Scott to send materials containing treaty history to Roberta and Natalie for History • Qualifications of Officers – Carrie • Election Committee – Yvonne • Jo Lynn and Natalie will continue with language, Jo Lynn can also pick up more drafting if she is so inclined at the next meeting 	
	<p>Discussion regarding potential punitive measures on Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 known historical examples of sanctioning and banishment found in tribal resolutions • Subject tabled for another meeting, too big to tackle at this point in time 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Facebook polling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results include anywhere from 7 to 20 people responding • Needs to be more input from tribal members, will stop polling yes/no questions and instead provide comment space and ask for opinions • Need to wait for Secretary-Treasurer response, may need to use Facebook group to cancel Town Halls if our work is suspended early 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staggered terms for elected officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Used to be 2, 3, 5 year staggered terms by the Constitution, reason for staggering was so that the longer serving people could help on-board new members ○ Were taken out in previous administration's Constitutional amendments ○ Terms now outlined in the Grievance Ordinance, 4 year terms currently ○ 2 years may not be enough time to make change ○ Roberta to work with wording, possible definitions • Code of Ethics including prohibition on nepotism – more review needed 	
	<p>Confirmation of next meeting on JAN 29, 2024 @ 6pm</p>	
8:05pm	<p>Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus</p>	