

MEETING REPORT

CALIFORNIA INDIAN HERITAGE CENTER (CIHC) TASK FORCE

PUBLIC MEETING
April 3, 2006

Resources Building
1416 – 9th Street, room 1412
Sacramento, CA 95814

Task Force Members (TFMs) and Designees present: Gen Denton, Walter Gray, Susan Hildreth, Bill Mungary, Larry Myers, Chairperson (TFC), Jack Norton

Task Force Members and designees absent: Cindi Alvitre, Timothy Bactad (Benae Calac attended on his behalf), Mike Chrisman

DPR staff present: Maria Baranowski, Pauline Grenbeaux, Paulette Hennum, Julie Holder, James Sarmento, Dan Striplen, Cathy Taylor, Warren Westrup

1. Call to order - Myers

Meeting called to order at approximately 8:40 a.m. TFM Denton gave the opening blessing. TFC Myers welcomed all in attendance and asked that those present introduce themselves. He reviewed the agenda and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to update TFMs about the progress in the planning process since July and to prepare for the next meeting when decisions about the preferred site will be made. He noted that there were no action items on the agenda and announced the following changes in the agenda:

Housekeeping

Item 2b. Staffing update: deferred until next meeting.

Item 2c. Workshop location/logistics moved under **Item 7: Planning for Workshop #2**

6. Governance update was moved up pending the arrival of John Colonghi.

2. Housekeeping - Hennum/Striplen

Item d. TFC Myers led a discussion regarding how TFMs wish their contact information to be listed on the project website developed and maintained by EDAW. TFMs received letters with passwords but this information is not for public distribution. He noted that using the website will be an efficient way to communicate.

6. Governance update - Gray

TFM Gray reviewed the history of this issue, noting that the Task Force has seen a number of presentations from various sources on this topic. A Sub-Committee on Governance was formed about two years ago to recommend a long-term governance structure for the CIHC. A report outlining a proposed structure was submitted to and

adopted by the Task Force on May 12, 2005. Legislative action may be needed to give State Parks the authority to enter into an agreement with a non-profit organization that represents California Indian people.

He recommended that a subset of the Task Force meet with Director Coleman and Capitol District Superintendent Cathy Taylor to clarify DPR's position, identify desired outcomes and a strategy to achieve them. TFC Myers called for volunteers and TFM Denton volunteered to participate. TFC Myers expressed surprise and disappointment that the process was not further along. TFM Hildreth asked about a potential role for the State Parks Foundation. TFM Gray indicated that the Foundation could be counted on as a supporter, not an initiator.

TFM Mungary called attention to two pieces of legislation with potential relevance to the CIHC. *A.B. 2645 California Heritage Corridor Act* which establishes a committee within the Department of Transportation to evaluate and recommend the designation of Heritage Corridors throughout the State. *S.B. 1395* proposes additional notification and review requirements when Native American sites may be impacted in development projects. It follows up on *S.B. 18* requirements regarding consultation by local governments.

2. Housekeeping (continued) - Striplen

Item a. Striplen reported on a March 1st meeting whose goal was to determine how local tribes want to proceed with matters concerning the site. Attendance was very low and he noted that a strategy for local involvement is not in place. TFM Myers asked how attendance could be improved. Striplen noted the need for more personal contacts and to identify more suitable times and meeting formats.

3. Identity, Marketing, Fundraising - Gray/Colonghi

John Colonghi introduced himself and his associate, Danielle Erb. He shared his experience as National Campaign Director (from 1990 – 1999) for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) from the start-up phase, including establishing an endowment and a highly successful development strategy with unprecedented – and underestimated – tribal support. He noted that there are many similarities between the NMAI and the CIHC and stressed the importance of planning beyond construction. Other topics touched on included: generating non-state revenues, forming an institutional identity, attracting tribal audiences and establishing a communication strategy.

Break

4. Site update/ Memorandum of Understanding - Myers/Westrup

TFC Myers called on Grenbeaux to update the TF. She reported that meetings with local agencies/organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, **(who will remain a property holder within the Northgate area) to discuss acquisition strategies and funding for property acquisition at Northgate and Richards Boulevard. The initial acreage identified by the City of Sacramento, for the Richards Boulevard site, was insufficient.**

She noted that last year, the City put forward a resolution to allocate \$1.5 million dollars as seed money to acquire parcels on the south side and that a more recent resolution has been submitted for City Council approval allocating an additional \$6.3 million dollars for property acquisition specific to Richards Boulevard. She noted the need to determine how much of the facility could be sited on each side of the river noting that the southern side offers opportunities to identify with the neighborhood such as influencing the name of the light rail stop and/or public art to be commissioned. The draft *American River Parkway Update* allows for a Visitor Center of 32,000 square feet on the north side, in the American River Parkway.

She noted that several meetings with agency personnel have been held at the Cache Creek Conservancy, site of a tending and gathering garden maintained by Native people which gives a picture of what the natural part of CIHC, on the Northgate site, could look like.

She remarked that his year's flooding helped to understand what it means to build near the river. Safe facilities must be built up but it is also vital to accept the consequences of locating near the water. She stated that there are many opportunities for temporary outdoor facilities which can be used seasonally.

Alma Du Solier, project manager for EDAW, reported on the design charrette conducted by EDAW to determine the minimum acreage needed to have the bulk of the built Center on the south side (Richards Blvd.) of the river. She noted that similar facilities were evaluated and past CIHC studies were looked at to compare and contrast the building and the land that supports the facility. She stated that outdoor program areas and adjacencies and room for future expansion needed to be included to make the project viable.

(Originally, the project identified 100 acres of land, with a structure measuring 60,000 square feet. If the facility is built on the south side of the river, how much land is needed to support it? This keeps in mind that the Northgate site will primarily be used as a seasonal area for outdoor cultural programs with a scaled down interpretive facility.)

One option on the south side, is to make the CIHC look more like a campus, with several buildings, rather than just one. She stated that with the split facility, a minimum of 20 -25 acres are necessary to achieve the TF's vision.

Westrup continued the discussion stating that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DPR and the local agencies (City, County and SAFCA) will be presented at the next TF meeting. He stressed the importance of confirming the site and noted that each site has a different character – the south side is an industrial area, the north is natural. He noted that no properties are owned by the City. Further, the City currently does not own any south side properties, that the County owns 2.4 acres, that would be identified in the MOU towards the project. Westrup confirmed the need for 20 – 25 acres on the south side and he concluded by saying that he is trying to get commitments and the best deal to bring a recommendation to the TF's next meeting. No parcels have been appraised.

Cathy Taylor noted that the general plan for the area will not be adopted until 2008. Traffic circulation issues e.g. pedestrian walkways, bridges and ferry boats are very important issues in this part of the City's planning.

The Riverdale Mobile Home Park Manager expressed concern about the project's effect on the trailer park and noted that there had been little communication with project staff.

Frank Cirill (Save the American River Association – SARA) spoke in favor of concentrating the facility on the south side noting that the TF must to be realistic with money and acreage.

Grenbeaux continued the discussion touching on topics such as the implications of not having a bridge, the ability to use the land on the north side seasonally and the need to identify amount of land necessary on the south. She referred to recent complications in the negotiations restating that the overall goal is to do what is best for CIHC. She observed that CIHC can stimulate what else is going into the area. She remarked that the TF needs to look at the best possible deal and assess the options. She noted that the TF can return to consider the previous site(s) to see if they are still viable, if necessary. A timeline will be provided at the next meeting.

Lunch

5. Site update (continued)

Westrup stated that studies were done for general purposes to see if there were any fatal flaws at the site; none were identified. He indicated that much time was spent reviewing the 1991 study. The purpose is to evaluate the idea of the split site and how it would affect the presence of the surrounding area. An equestrian trail and other resources are already present. He stated the need to demonstrate that all of the utility issues that come with a site of this size have been dealt with. He noted that there are no utilities on the Parkway side (estimated cost is \$2.7 million dollars).

He remarked that the CIHC needs enough room to program to give the CIHC its desired identity. The issue of flooding was considered and that the goal was to keep the building as natural as possible – not to build on stilts. Westrup noted that an EIR takes about 18 months to complete in this area. He stated that he will report back to the TF in mid-May.

Bert Hodges, Save the American River Association, (SARA) cautioned against neglecting natural environments and how the use of ferry boats would affect waterways and habitat.

7. Planning for EDAW Workshop #2 - Du Solier

Du Solier summarized the meeting notes from Workshop #1 and stated that they have been circulated for review and comment. She noted that key CIHC documents are online at the official website for Master Planning and Programming phase of the CIHC www.edaw.net/cihc

She described logistics for the next workshop (May 1 – 2, 2006) noting that the participants will be the same Advisory Group members as the January workshop.

Workshop goals are to get additional input to complement information from the previous meeting, site analysis, more detailed input regarding non-site specific physical qualities of the environment and the adjacencies.

8. Public comment - Myers

Ruth Angela Marquez-Washeleksi read an email she sent in support of the Northgate site.

April Farnham, Docent, State Indian Museum requested that the State Indian Museum be kept informed of the status of the project.

9. Meeting adjourned 2:40 pm - Myers