

NEVADA STATE BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

MINUTES May 13, 2014

The meeting began at 9:31am, Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library conference room, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV

Introductions of Members and Guests:

Board Members Present:

Christine Johnson, Nevada Historical Society
David Davis, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology
Robert [Bob] Stewart, US Bureau of Land Management, retired
Skip Canfield, Nevada Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
John Burgess, Nevada Dept. of Transportation
Jeff Kintop, State Archivist, Nevada State Library & Archives
Jack Hursh, Executive Secretary, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology [non-voting]
Linda Newman, Chair, University of Nevada, Reno, Emeritus
Paul Starrs, University of Nevada, Reno

Absent:

Daryl Crawford, Inter-Tribal Council
Margaret Rees, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Marianne Faretta, Senior GIS Analyst, Nevada Department of Transportation has stepped down; no replacement yet chosen.
US Forest Service Representative Terri Frolli has retired; no replacement yet chosen.

Guests:

Daryl Cruz, Cultural Chair – Washoe Tribe
Terry Cynar, Reno
Scott Carey, Nevada 150 Commission
David Antonucci, Tahoe City, CA
Jenny Antonucci, Tahoe City, CA
Larry J. Schmidt
Bill Armstrong

5 Minute Discussion by Linda Newman preceding meeting. Discussion topic: meeting protocol.

Agenda:

1. Minutes. Jan. 8, 2014. Approved.

Motion to accept by Skip Canfield, 2nd by Christine Johnson
Vote unanimous with 2 corrections/additions

2. Announcements:

Chair: Updates on Mt. Reagan, Mineral County names submitted.

Executive Secretary: Welcome to Paul Starrs, joining the Board as a representative from the University of Nevada. Thank you to Marianne Faretta, who has had to step down.

Discussion of recent inquiries into Salt Wells, Chinatown and McLane Peak.

3. Announcements from Nevada Board: None

Guests: None [at this time]

4. Sam Clemens Cove, update:

Sam Clemens Cove addressed before officer elections. Chair provided brief history and recapped naming guidelines. Letters from the Incline Village Historical Society and a letter from Professor Emeritus James Hulse were read before the committee. Darrel Cruz presented a letter on behalf of the Washoe Tribe. Chair spoke on the writings of Mark Twain. Executive Secretary comments on the irony of Incline Village Historical Society letter, and comments pertaining to the ongoing work of the NBGN Board were provided by S. Canfield. Discussion by P. Starrs on perspectives of place names; names can be notorious as well as regarded. D. Cruz spoke on reasons of non-support by Washoe tribe and cited writings of Twain and the Washoe connection. P. Starrs commented on Hulse letter, which quoted how Twain overcame prejudices. J. Kintop commented on Twain's writings. D. Antonucci's slide show presented, pointing out beach in question was not present in 1861, environmental damage potential to cove, racist views of Twain. S. Carey expressed initial support by the NV 150 commission, but mentioned that they now find Twain's racist writings to be offensive, so they are retracting prior support for the naming. Discussion between D. Antonucci and S. Carey questioning the possibility for the 150 Commission to revisit the Twain question, to which J. Kintop pointed out the discussion was out of order and not on the agenda. J. Kintop further questioned D. Antonucci's point on Sandy Beach. B. Stewart pointed out survey notes are more important than maps. D. Cruz reiterated Twain's racist views, which was followed by T. Cynar's question as to judging the moralities of our previous and evolving culture. P. Starrs pointed out that Twain operated in an exaggerated prose and it is difficult to assess his true personal feelings of Native people at the time. Asks if we should forgive Clemens. B. Stewart commented on Nathaniel Hawthorne's over-romanticization of Native American's and that Twain was reacting to Hawthorne's misrepresentation of Native Americans. D. Cruz commented on the Native perspective of taking Twain's writings at face value. D. Antonucci commented that Clemens is perhaps not worth of the naming, and the U.S. Board is now in the process of purging names that are deemed offensive. J. Kintop rebutted that this action has not happened in Nevada. C. Johnson commented that Twain's work in literature is honorable and that we should not purge the landscape of Twain's and Clemens' name, praising T. Cynar's comment on how culture's perceptions change over time and reminds the Board that Twain and Clemens are in effect two different personalities. J. Burgess questions D. Antonucci's proposal to move the name to a different location at the previous meeting, if he was presently opposed to naming anything after Clemens. D. Antonucci claims that he had since become educated on Clemens' racist views and no longer supported any naming. S. Canfield moved to have a vote, no second by the Board. Chair suggested tabling proposal, seconded by P. Starrs. Motioned carried by all but one vote (S. Canfield). Motion followed by discussion from P. Starrs as to the value of this discussion, comparing perceptions of modern times versus the Clemens time frame. T. Cynar mentions the discussion pertains not just to Nevada's history; it dates to debates in prehistory. Board asks D. Cruz to consider being on the Board as D. Crawford's alternate.

5. Election of Officers

B. Stewart begins discussion by thanking Linda Newman (Chair) and Jack Hursh (Executive Secretary) for their long-standing service to the Board. B. Stewart nominated Jeff Kintop, seconded by S. Canfield. J. Kintop accepts nomination, Board voted in favor of election of J. Kintop unanimously. J. Kintop nominated Christine Johnson for Executive Secretary, S. Canfield seconded the motion. Board voted in favor of election of C. Johnson unanimously.

6. Select a meeting place for next meeting.

The date of September 9, 2014 was decided on to be held at the Great Basin Sample and Records Library Conference Room, Desert Research Institute campus, 2175 Raggio Parkway, Reno, NV.

7. L. Newman moved for adjournment; second by J. Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment at 11:23am

Minutes prepared by Christine Johnson and subject to approval by the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names at next meeting.