




SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Monday, March 04, 2024	TIME PLACE	6pm CT Tribal HQ + Zoom	FACILITATOR	Carrie Kneeland
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MEMBERS			
Roberta Smith	Present	Scott B Goode	Present – Zoom
Carrie Kneeland	Present - Zoom	Angela Anglen Kelley	Present
Natalie Dixon	Present - Zoom	Earlyne Gentry	Present
Kristi Birdsong Blansett	Present	Jo Lynn Gentry	Present later - Zoom
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present - Zoom	Others Present	Davey Blansett

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:07pm	Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's special Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – February 26, 2024 minutes reviewed as a group, all CAC members present prior to vote for approval of minutes, minor corrections made to the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">On <u>03/04/2024</u> the minutes of <u>02/26/2024</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>3/11/2024</u>.</p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	Attest:  Natalie Dixon, Secretary	
	Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – FEB 26, 2024 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – MAR 11, 2024 	Natalie
--	Planned Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Preamble • Standing Committees • Elections Article • Any Other Business • Next Constitution meeting 03/11/2024 @ 6pm 	
Minutes Begin		
7:18pm	Jo Lynn arrives to meeting during review of minutes of Feb 26, 2024 prior to the approval of said minutes	
7:29pm	CAC begins to review preambles; discussion ensues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Town Hall members of the General Council agreed the word sovereignty should be included • CAC members says 2 unnamed elders do not want to change preamble <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No drafted preamble or concrete revisions have been presented to them for review • Use of subsections allows for more foundation to Resolutions; Resolutions can reference the subsections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Important to include the words “protect and preserve” when speaking about our traditional language(s) and culture ○ Fewer subsections may be necessary – longest-drafted preamble includes 8 subsections, fewer is preferable 	
	CAC discusses treaties and references to them in any Tribal Governing Documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject of treaties is very large, something that cannot be reviewed in its entirety before our report due date 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have at least 6+ treaties since our time in Ohio, more as a part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, those treaty rights must be exercised in coordination and carefully with other tribal governments • Present CAC-drafted preamble includes reference to 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua, there are names on this treaty still present in our community per Roberta • Kiowa Tribe has discussed using “trilateral citizenship” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Such a term covers the nature of tribal citizens also holding citizenship with federal and state governments • Scott to share sections of legal briefs concerning treaty history of the Nation with CAC 	
	<p>Scott to email Business Committee (BC) regarding CAC presence at General Council, BC has not given any reply regarding this matter</p>	
	<p>CAC discusses the rights and powers of General Council of the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we notify the General Council of their powers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Through outlined articles • Besides the Removal of Officers, what other Constitutionally outlined powers should the General Council have? 	
	<p>CAC members agree to condense together proposed preambles for later revision</p>	
	<p>Discussion regarding Standing Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Enrollment issues including audit by previous administration related to previous language in the Constitution • Discussion regarding if and/or how the Enrollment Officer should be tied to the Enrollment Committee • Hiring and firing of tribal employees is subject to the Business Committees & changes in elected officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A Constitutional Code of Ethics covering all elected officials, tribal employees, and contractors would provide structure, standardization, and due process across personnel and elected officials in our tribal administration • Enrollment duties are tied to the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer, this is why the General Council put the Secretary-Treasurer as the Chair of Enrollment Committee 	

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	<p>Motion #17 (Scott/Yvonne) - No current and active Business Committee members may be a voting member of any other Standing or Subcommittee - unanimous committee vote – motion carried</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Standing Committees currently listed – Grievance, Ethics, Election, Enrollment, Claims • CAC discusses Housing (sub)Committee currently active under Business Committee • CAC agrees that Tax Commission should be added to Standing Committees 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Housing of the Nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current housing options – Nation had previously allowed HUD participation to lapse, we have updated all necessary paperwork • Tribal-owned housing is mostly independent houses leased to unknown third parties <p>Motion #18 (Earlyne/Kristi) - to add Housing Committee to Standing Committees - unanimous committee vote – motion carried</p>	
	<p>Discussion regarding previous conversation regarding Chief vs Chairperson terminology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No plans to continue this discussion • No question was posted on Facebook 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Claims Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claims Committee established by General Council in 1985 • Was established with 5 members • Current Claims Committee issues in operation include the gatekeeping of relevant Claims and Enrollment records necessary for Claims paperwork review, the rejection of applications by tribal employees and non-Claims Committee members 	
	<p>Discussion regarding Standing Committees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC agrees to add Tax Commission to Standing Committees 	
	<p>Discussion continues regarding Enrollment Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC member says to leave the Secretary-Treasurer membership pool for Enrollment Committee, continue to 	

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	<p>have them put up names to be confirmed by the General Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serving Secretary would be a non-voting member, in-line with earlier motion • Discussion regarding the enrollment paperwork process 	
	<p>Discussion regarding an Election article</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be drafted on March 11, 2024 	
	<p>Open Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletter, when is next draft due • Pay and raises of elected officials to be a power of the General Council • March 25, 2024 - Review the powers of the General Council and Business Committee as well as meeting procedures, and any necessary discussion with Davey Blansett regarding May 4, 2024 Town Hall • More Facebook polling questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What do you think the Qualifications of Officers should be? • Legal professionals on CAC to review the Ethics proposal before April 1 meeting • Need for standardization and information flow across Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Could be a simple paperwork change to include a question "Do we have your permission to share your information with other Committees?" 	
	<p>Confirmation of next meeting on March 11, 2024 @ 6pm</p>	
8:23pm	<p>Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus</p>	

