



SENECA-CAYUGA NATION

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE	Friday, April 12, 2024	TIME PLACE	6:30pm CT Zoom	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	Present – Zoom
Yvonne Perryman-Matthews	Present Zoom	Others Present	n/a

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
6:30pm	<p>Called to Order - Quorum established at the Seneca-Cayuga Nation's special Constitution Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting.</p>	Carrie
	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes – April 09, 2024 minutes not reviewed on April 12, 2024 due to time constraints, minutes were reviewed and approved on 04/16/2024 without changes to the record – minutes APPROVED</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CERTIFICATION</u></p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">On <u>04/16/2024</u>, the minutes of <u>04/09/2024</u> were approved by unanimous committee consent. Copy emailed to BC Secretary on <u>04/19/2024</u>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attest: <u><i>Natalie Dixon</i></u> Natalie Dixon, Secretary</p>	Natalie

TIME	ITEM	OWNER
	<p>Housekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Roll Call ii. Approval of Previous Meetings Minutes – APR 09, 2024 iii. Confirmation of next meeting – APR 14, 2024 	Natalie
--	<p>Planned Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housekeeping • Continuing the Approval of the Initial Advisory Report • Any Other Business • Next Constitution meeting 04/14/2024 @ 6:30pm 	
Minutes Begin		
	<p>CAC continues reviewing and approving paragraph-by-paragraph the Initial Advisory Report. Document includes 30+ pages and is not outlined paragraph-by-paragraph in these minutes due to upcoming distribution.</p>	
	<p>CAC discusses Housing Committee section of Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of Housing Committee used to consist of all Business Committee members, now has several tribal citizens and at least one Business Committee member and the Housing Director (the current Housing Director is a tribal citizen) • Powers of the Housing Committee should include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The approval of rental lease agreements and rent prices not under HUD requirements • The CAC includes current and former members of the Housing Committee • Possible other duties of the Housing Committee could include tribal citizen education on Housing matters such as lease agreements, financial literacy (similar to Oklahoma high school curriculum online,) the inspection of tribal housing 	
	<p>CAC discusses Tax Commission section of Report and agrees on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All monies moved from the Tax Commission account should be done via Resolution with specific language as to the purpose and intention for said monies. • The CAC finds that the current powers of the Tax Commission are appropriate. • Tax Commission members are subject to Grievances. 	

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	<p>CAC discusses Constitution Article VIII – Annual Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC agrees that active tribal citizenship in the General Council is important • Other Native Nations (such as the Miami and Wyandotte hold their Annual Meetings close to their cultural gatherings) • There is concern already in filling Committee positions, if CAC recommendations are acted upon and 20-25+ Committee positions are added and there are not enough tribal citizens to fill them, what happens? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is an at-large Committee member a possible solution? • CAC debates the addition of a bullet point to the Initial Advisory Report requesting that the General Council consider the timing of the Annual Meeting and timing it closer to August instead of June in the event of significant government reform to allow for greater General Council participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This has happened before for a Special Meeting of the General Council in 2022 for a new membership vote, it was very well attended ○ Testimony from General Council members at our August 2023 Town Hall appreciated the timing of said Town Hall and allowing them to participate more fully, being already in town ○ With the possible addition of 20+ Committee seats, it is necessary to bolster General Council participation 	
	<p>CAC reviews the Removal of Officers section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 3rd step process for the Removal of Officers including absentee balloting for the at-large population when removing an officer has been discussed, but there is not enough time for the CAC fully vet such an idea 	
8:22pm	Roberta arrives	
	CAC continues reviewing the Initial Advisory Report paragraph-by-paragraph	
	<p>CAC reviews the Duties of Officers and agrees on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2nd Chief’s duties should include being the liaison for the Tax Commission • The Secretary will serve as the Business Committee liaison for the Enrollment Committee 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More discussion as to the threshold amount for a bond to be filed by the Treasurer is needed • The Secretary will be responsible for becoming a notary public • A Treasurer will be responsible for providing an annual audit of the Nation to the General Council • The following Councilpeople duties were discussed, being applicable to all members of the Business Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To faithfully implement and enforce the legislative enactments and policies of the Nation ○ To consult with administrative staff and Committee members ○ To build relationships with tribal citizens ○ To learn and understand government documents, contracts, and financials ○ To create viable ideas and champion the same for the benefit and best interests of tribal citizens and/or the Nation 	
	<p>CAC continues reviewing the Initial Advisory Report paragraph-by-paragraph</p>	
	<p>CAC reviews By-Laws Article III – Regular and Special Meetings and Article IV – Quorum and agrees on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current petition language should remain in Section 2 – Special Meetings of the General Council • The quorum for Special Meetings of the General Council will remain the same as for Regular Meetings of the General Council 	
	<p>CAC continues reviewing the Initial Advisory Report paragraph-by-paragraph</p>	
	<p>CAC reviews New Provisions, Code of Ethics section</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Ethics has not been finalized since previous review during CAC meetings, it does fall under an Ethics Committee's purview, CAC debates sending it to the Business Committee as an example with revisions 	
	<p>Motion #23 (Scott/Yvonne) - that the previously-discussed Code of Ethics (including amendments) is published to the Business Committee and General Council after an added front page and watermark that read "Example Only" - split committee vote – motion rescinded by Scott after lengthy debate, vote not finished</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate included following points (non-exhaustive list) 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30-page Code of Ethics document was not approved by CAC, matter had been previously tabled <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAC members can take into consideration and make all amendments prior to publishing ○ Code of Ethics document technically under the purview of the Ethics Committee similar to an Ordinance, may be overstepping with including such a document alongside Initial Advisory Report and Table of Authorities ○ 30+ page document not written for the General Council's understanding, may cause confusion if released alongside the Initial Advisory Report and Table of Authorities • No votes included 5 members of CAC – Roberta, Kristi, Earlyne, Jo Lynn, and Angela 	
9:39pm	Angela's device drops from meeting	
	<p>Motion #24 (Natalie/Carrie) - to publish the Initial Advisory Report to the Business Committee at the same time as the General Council - split committee vote – motion failed 5N to 3Y</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate included the following points (non-exhaustive list) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is no procedure in place for this Report in the CAC creation documents and guidelines ○ Should the Business Committee be the ones to release the Initial Advisory Report? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CAC will request the Business Committee to release our Initial Advisory Report and Table of Authorities at our meeting with them on April 16, 2024 • No votes by Roberta, Jo Lynn, Earlyne, Kristi, and Scott 	
	Confirmation of next meeting on April 14, 2024 @ 6:30pm	
10:18pm	Meeting Adjourned by Group Consensus	