



Quality of Life (QOL) Committee

FY 2019 4th Quarter Report (July – September 2019)

PURPOSE

The Quality of Life Committee is a standing committee of the Oneida Business Committee that has oversight responsibility of the following areas of the Tribe: Language and Culture, Health, Human Services and Public Safety. This oversight responsibility also extends to any board, committee, or commission related to these specific areas.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-Chairman Brandon Stevens, Quality of Life Committee Chair
Councilman Ernest Stevens III, Quality of Life Committee Vice Chair
Councilman Daniel Guzman-King, Quality of Life Committee Member
Chairman Tehassi Hill, Quality of Life Committee Member
Councilman Kirby Metoxen, Quality of Life Committee Member

Other partners include: General Manager, Wellness Council, Oneida Police Department, Division Directors, other senior leaders and their staff

MEETINGS

Quality of Life Committee meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month starting at 8:30 a.m. Meetings in the 4th quarter were held in July, August, and September.

ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

1. Food Sovereignty Endowment

The mission of the Food Sovereignty Endowment is to create an endowment that will sustain food sovereignty initiatives indefinitely. Initiatives include but are not limited to: Food Distribution System – work for food program, Food Education – nutrition, build knowledge and skills and growing, Localizing Food Systems, Seed Bank, and Food Storage – short and long term. The QoL committee presented this to multiple areas and had discussion on the financials and compliance. The committee approved a memo to be sent to the Finance Committee in support of this endowment.

2. Sovereign Sustainable Wellness and Healing Endowment

The mission of the Sovereign Sustainable Wellness and Healing Endowment is to create a sovereign and sustainable wellness and healing endowment that is completely independent of the U.S. or state regulations; is self-sustaining fiscally; is holistic both in ideology and in

practice; utilizes natural means and indigenous methods to heal; is culturally appropriate and respectful. Input on this came from Oneida Cultural Heritage, Oneida Risk Management, Oneida Community Health Center and Finance. The committee approved a memo to be sent to the Finance Committee in support of this endowment.

3. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize

The committee was presented with this grant of \$25,000 no match for a duration of up to 12 months. The purpose is to reward efforts by non-profit organizations and Indian Tribes to provide a cohesive project/program of activities and services designed to create a culture of health. The motion was made to apply for this grant.

4. Environmental Issues

Members from the QoL, Law Office, and Environmental had multiple working sessions focused around Treatment as a State. Dr. James Grijalva explained options for the Oneida Nation and how to address eligibility for Treatment of State.

It was identified that in order to work towards that goal Oneida needs to establish Water Quality Standards and have the EPA approve them.

The Waters of Oneida will be reviewed and updated

Members are working with individuals from Cultural Heritage and the Language Department on drafting a Rights of Nature Proclamation.

5. Tribal Action Plan (TAP)

Oneida Nation Employees and an individual involved in grassroots efforts attended a training provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in Bloomington, MN July 9-11, 2019. There was great discussion on what's working out in Indian Country to combat the drug epidemic.

Grassroots efforts began to bring awareness and to help clean up the community of garbage and drugs. Events held at Jonas Circle Park (7/13), Three Sisters (8/6) and Site II (8/17).

Worked with the Chief of Police at OPD on ideas of drug awareness and safety.

TAP transitioned to be under the direction of the General Manager as of September 2019.

6. Wellness Council

Mental Health Fair – Wellness Council decided to plan a Wellness Summit for May 2020 focusing on navigating mental health resources. First step is to get the endorsement letter from QOL.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Motion to accept the Quality of Life Committee FY2019 4th Quarter Report.