Present: Dan White, Chair  
Kelli Bacon  
Gen Green  
Claire DeVaughan  
Rob White  
Greg Thompson  
John Larsen  
Arie Leeflang, Secretary

Absent: Grant Willis  
Zach Beck

Guests: Jenny Runyon, U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Matthew O’Donnell, U.S. Board on Geographic Names

- Dan provided a welcome to the Utah Committee on Geographic Names (Committee) just after 1pm.
- Dan followed the welcome by read the “Board Chair Determination to Hold Electronic Meetings without Anchor Location.”
- It was mentioned the Agenda originally included a welcome to Director Ortiz. Unfortunately she was called into another meeting and couldn’t join us. She was appointed as the Director of State History on June 7th and oversees our Committee. Arie Leeflang serves in her stead as the Committee secretary. We will continue to invite her to future meetings and give her a warm welcome at her first attendance. We are excited to work with her.
- The minutes of the May 2021 Committee meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- It was then suggested that we review recent U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) decisions that involved Utah. It was reviewed that the Jones Canyon proposal, which the Committee reviewed and voted on in May 2021, was not approved by the BGN. It was also reviewed the Tse Nizh’oni-Stellar Arch proposal, which we also reviewed and voted on in May 2021, was approved by the BGN. Both of these BGN votes are in alignment with the Committee’s May votes.
- Arie Leeflang provided a brief update on the any Squaw names proposals. He reports he communicated with the Director of Indian Affairs, Director Dustin Jansen, in October regarding any potential “Squaw Names” having been submitted to his office per 2021 Senate Bill 10. Director Jansen reports the work associated with the 2021 Squaw Names legislation is still in process. He states they are working with a community organization to assist their office with the requirements of SB10. There were no direct updates regarding any submissions or a process. He reports the community group has reached out to the Ute Tribe for name suggestions regarding the Squaw Mountain (aka Squaw Peak) location in Provo.
- Greg Thompson provided a report that the American West Center at the University of Utah is working on cataloguing and documenting Native American place names in Utah. This effort is being led by Dr. Greg Smoak. Greg Thompson suggested having Dr. Smoak present to us in a future meeting regarding their efforts. The Committee agreed this effort by the American West Center will be a great benefit to us in the future as we tackle future geographic place name proposals and seek input from tribes. The Committee also agreed a presentation from Dr. Smoak or his staff would be appreciated. Greg Thompson offered to reach out to Dr. Smoak to see if he willing to present to the Committee.
- The past agenda item of Grace Mountain was reviewed by Dan White and Jenny Runyon. It was reviewed that the proposal to change the name of Y Mountain in Utah County to Grace Mountain was never finalized in the BGN process. The proponent was proposing to change the name based upon his reported ability to see the word
“Grace” in the rock outcrops on the western flanks of the mountain. Jenny Runyon reported the proponent had not responded to requests for clarification on the proposal in numerous months. So the proposal is being treated as incomplete. The Committee will not include the proposal on any future agendas unless the proposal is finalized with the proponent and enters the BGN review proposal list.

- SkyRidge Peak proposal was then reviewed.
  - The general proposal was reviewed – including the confirmation the feature is found on private land above (north) of Jordanelle Reservoir. The name is derived from the local SkyRidge Development, a real estate and infrastructure development area and group that reportedly owns the feature location.
  - The received opinions from both Summit and Wasatch Counties were reviewed. Wasatch County stated they were opposed the proposal. Summit County also shared opposition to the proposal and also provided a report from a local Summit County historian that they feature was already locally and historically known historically as Quinns Peak.
  - The Committee reviewed that the name fell under the Commercial Name policy in the BGN Principles, Policies, and Procedures (PPP) document. This document does not preclude the approval of Commercial Names but does discourage it.
  - Claire DeVaughan shared a document she found online with the Utah Division of State Parks which includes a map with the feature labeled as SkyRidge Peak. This document is related to the management of Jordanelle Reservoir. It was discussed what importance the document holds in defining local usage or other standing in the naming of this location. It was discussed that the document likely included the feature name without knowledge of the BGN process and at the behest or suggestion of the private SkyRidge development group. It was agreed the document did not hold much value in supporting the proposal in the BGN process.
  - The Committee reviewed that there had been no response from any of the tribes contacted by the BGN within the allotted period of time.
  - A motion was made to not support the proposal based up on the lack of support from the two pertinent counties, the evidence presented by a county historian stating the location had a preexisting historical, locally used name, and the discouragement of Commercial Names under BGN policy (PPP Policy XI).
  - The Committee voted unanimously to not support the proposal.

- The Moki Arch proposal was then reviewed.
  - Arie Leeflang provided a brief case summary quickly gleaned from the BGN proposal packet. It was reviewed this proposal comes from the same proponent as the recent Tse Nizh’oni-Stellar Arch proposal. It was reviewed the feature is found on SITLA land in San Juan County.
  - The Committee reviewed a county opinion from San Juan County which supported the name proposal.
  - Arie Leeflang has not yet reached out to SITLA but will, for an opinion.
  - We haven’t heard back from any tribes yet but some discussion regarding the appropriateness of the term “Moki” among Puebloan communities. Greg Thompson reports that in his experience, Puebloan groups do not support the use of the name. Other members of the Committee agreed that the term Moki may be seen as offensive or derogatory for some Native American tribes or individuals. It was agreed the potentially derogatory nature of the proposed name is greatly concerning to the Committee.
  - Arie Leeflang will reach out to the Hopi tribal council for an opinion on the name.
  - John Larsen asked if it mattered that the location didn’t appear (from the photograph) to actually be an arch. The location instead appears to be a partly formed arch with no clear ‘exit,’ with only an entrance. The Committee discussed who defines what an arch is in the BGN process and the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS).
  - A motion was made to table the discussion while we received an opinion from the Hopi tribe and while we gather information on what qualifies as an arch.
  - The Committee voted unanimously to table the discussion.

- The date of the next meeting was planned. It will occur on Thursday February 3rd, 2022, at 1pm. Arie will send out a calendar invite.
- The meeting was officially closed at approximately 2pm.
Action Items:

- Greg Thompson will reach out to the Greg Smoak at the American West Center to see if they are willing to present to us at a future meeting regarding their efforts to document indigenous geographic names in Utah.
- Arie Leeflang will reach out to SITLA regarding the Moki Arch proposal.
- Arie Leeflang will reach out to the Hopi tribe regarding the Moki Arch proposal.