



Casino:: Tribe cancels Wayland hearing

The Gun Lake Band has canceled a second public information meeting about casinos, planned for Wayland Township residents Nov. 27, in the wake of last Wednesday's Dorr session.

"From the behavior we witnessed last night," said tribe spokesman Noel LaPorte Thursday, "we see no point in another meeting."

"All we were attempting to do," said tribe chairman D.K. Sprague, "was inform the public, in a positive and respectful way, about what we hope to accomplish for our community as a whole."

"It's obvious that some people had their minds made up before they walked in the door and came only to shout down the tribe and the township board," Sprague went on.

"I cannot, as a responsible leader, subject my people to such abuse. One woman even suggested that Indians don't have jobs like everybody else."

There were catcalls of 'Go back where you came from' and even some in the crowd who taunted two ladies from our tribe with Hollywood-style war whoops. These ladies felt so menaced by these jeers, that they left the meeting.

"We believe what we saw was a vocal minority and does not reflect the attitude of the people we have known and lived with all of our lives," Sprague said.

"We heard from a negative crowd last night," said LaPorte, "but we've also heard from many who are supportive."

"The tribe will continue the legal process," the spokesman said.

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