

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, October 17, 2016

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Kassie Helgerson, Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney, Victor St. George, Hannah Smith, Amber Lightfeather

Absent: Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Tina Olson

Staff: Adam Fulton, Kathy Wilson, Chris Lee

Note: Per the request of the DIC members two Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes – bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion.

1. Call to Order, Introduction

- Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:36pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of April meeting minutes

- St. George bezhig/ DeVerney niizho to approve the August 15, 2016 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 5:0.**
- Lightfeather arrived at 5:42pm.

3. Public Comment

- Zoey of Arc Northland informed the Commission about a grant they received to start a Regional Equity Council. The mission of the Council is to improve life for people with disabilities. The Council is currently being formed and having preliminary meetings while they look for more members. She invited Commissioners to attend a Council meeting on November 4th at 10am in the Ordean Building.
- John Barrett of the Duluth Police Department (DPD) asked that the Commission members take the DPD’s survey and also answer some additional focus group questions. Commissioners briefly discussed children, especially from the Indigenous community, being triggered by seeing police in schools and the need for the police to connect with youth by participating in fun activities together. Commissioners decided that it would be more appropriate to discuss the focus group questions during a Special Meeting so that they could have more time. City staff will work with John Barrett to schedule a Special Meeting sometime in November.
- Representatives from the league of Women Voters encouraged everyone to vote on November 8th.
- Chet Welsh gave an update on Four Winds. The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is going to take over the operations of the facility and lease the space from the State. Mille Lacs will work to implement more culturally specific treatment. Welsh also said the new Center for American Indian Resources (CAIR) building in Duluth will open on November 11th.

4. New Business

- Duluth Public Arts Commission (DPAC): Laurel Sander and Peter Spooner, members of DPAC, introduced themselves and the mission of DPAC – “to maintain and encourage public art.” They explained that DPAC had recently undergone a strategic planning process and one of the conclusions of that processes was that there is not enough public art in Duluth the reflects the Indigenous presence. DPAC is interested in partnering with the Indigenous Commission and would like to meet more to explore the options for Indigenous public art in Duluth.

- Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL): Helgerson bezhig/ DeVerney niizho for the Indigenous Commission to write a resolution supporting Standing Rock. **Motion passed 6:0.** Sandman and Helgerson volunteered to draft the resolution.
- Review ByLaws: City staff will send out suggested changes before the next meeting so everyone can review them and discuss at the November meeting.

5. Old Business

- Indigenous Peoples' Day: Sandman gave a recap of the speeches and ceremony on October 10th. Commissioners reported that Denfeld, Lincoln Pak, and Piedmont schools also had activities or ceremonies for Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- Sobriety Feast: Smith reported that community members are getting the hang of putting on the Sobriety Feast every month but thinks it's still important for Indigenous Commission members to attend regularly to make connections with the community. Smith left at 7:07pm. Chet Welch volunteered to speak at a Sobriety Feast. Commissioners gave him the contact information of one of the community members who helps organize the feasts.
- Interpretive Signage Project: The Parks Commission approved the resolution naming the Indigenous Commission as cultural liaison for interpretive signage projects, so it can now go to City Council with the support of the Indigenous Commission and Parks Commission.
- Ni Mi Win Pow Wow: Community members Renee Van Nett and Jeremy Davis have been running the regular planning meetings.
- Gitchi O'de Akiing: Sandman and ally Doug Bowen Bailey are waiting to meet with the Greater Downtown Council.

6. Adjournment:

Helgerson bezhig/DeVerney niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 5:0.**
The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

7. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is November 21, 2016 at 5:30 PM.