

## DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, February 27, 2017

City Hall, Room 303

**Present:** Kassie Helgerson, Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney, Amber Lightfeather, Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Tina Olson, Hannah Smith, Mary Owen, Larry Heady

**Absent:** none

**Staff:** Kathy Wilson, Jenn Reed Moses

*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 5:35 pm. Introductions were made.

### 2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Owen bezhig/ Smith niizho to approve the January 23, 2016. **Motion passed 8:0**
  - Olson arrived after this motion was passed at 5:48pm

### 3. Public Comment/Actions

- Cruz Mendoza, a member of the Human Rights Commission (HRC), reported that the HRC voted to endorse the renaming of Lake Place Park to Gitchi O’de Akiing
  - Sandman gave an update that she and ally Doug Bowen Baily had met with the Greater Downtown Council asking for support for Gitchi O’de Akiing and are still waiting for a response
- Mendoza provided the Commissioners with information about a newly forming coalition, the Northland Progressive Coalition, and details about two events related to the Coalition
  - April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the tentative date for the first official Coalition meeting.
  - March 19<sup>th</sup> some of the organizations who have joined the coalition are holding a discussion about issues (brought to the meeting by the organizations and individuals who attend) and potential solutions. Organizations that officially endorse/join the Coalition can have 25 minutes to talk about their mission and issues.
    - After discussion, the Commission decided not to endorse the coalition until learning more. Helgerson bezhig/ Owen niizho for representatives from the Indigenous Commission to attend the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to learn more and then report back to the Commission at the next meeting. **Motion passed 9:0**
- Jim Amell gave an update about the Strengths Based Needs Assessment and Photo Voice project. He gave an overview of the project for new Commissioners and talked about the planning for the launch of the Photo Voice project.

### 4. New Business

- Public Arts Commission list- Indigenous Commission members will attend the next public Arts Commission meeting to get a better understanding of how this collaboration could work and what kind of support the Public Arts Commission wants from the Indigenous Commission.
- Heritage Preservation Commission – Moses, who provides staff support to the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), told the Indigenous Commission that there is interest from the HPC to collaborate on projects. The Indigenous Commissioners expressed interest in calling a

special meeting to meet with members of the HPC to discuss this potential collaboration in more detail. Owen bezhig/Helgerson niizho to arrange a special meeting with the HPC. **Motion passed 9:0.**

- 2017 Work Plan- The annual meeting to discuss the 2017 work plan and review the bylaws was scheduled for May 11, 2017 at 5:30pm.

#### **5. Old Business**

- Sobriety Feast – Sandman says a community member has been coordinating the feasts, but asked that Commissioners continue to show up to show support. The Sobriety Feast is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6pm at One Roof (Central Hillside Community Center)
- Ni Mi Win Pow Wow – Helgerson will send an email update.
- Gitchi o'de Akiing – updates from Sandman and HRC in public comments section of the minutes
- Subcommittees – The Police subcommittee will meet with Police Chief Tusken on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm

#### **6. Election of Officers**

- Helgerson bezhig/Owen niizho to elect Sandman as Chairperson. **Motion passed 9:0.**
- Olson bezhig/Owen niizho to elect DeVerney as Vice Chairperson. **Motion passed 9:0.**
- Smith bezhig/Olson niizho to elect Owen as Secretary. **Motion passed 9:0.**

#### **7. Adjournment:**

Olson bezhig/Helgerson niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 9:0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

#### **8. Next Meeting:**

Next meeting is March 20, 2017 at 5:30 PM.