

## DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, March 20, 2017

City Hall, Room 303

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

**Absent:** Kassie Helgerson, Babette Sandman

**Staff:** Kathy Wilson, Steven Robertson

*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

- DeVerney called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Introductions were made.

### 2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Owen bezhig/ Heady niizho to approve the February 27, 2017. **Motion passed 5:0**
  - Olson arrived after this motion was passed at 5:38pm
  - Lightfeather arrived after the motion was passed at 5:45pm

### 3. Public Comment

- No public comment.

### 4. New Business

- Common Ground- Owen attended the Common Ground meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. She gave a summary of the meeting and suggested that the Indigenous Commission stay involved in these meetings. Owen volunteered to continue attending the meetings and reporting back to the indigenous Commission. Heady thinks it is a good idea to stay involved but wants to make sure the indigenous Commission keeps its focus on issues directly related to the indigenous community. Owen bezhig/ Olson niizho that representative from the Indigenous Commission should continue to attend Common Ground meetings. **Motion passed 7:0**
- Committee Work- Owen suggested discussing the active and inactive subcommittees.
  - Education Subcommittee: Owen proposed forming a subcommittee to research educational barriers for Indigenous children and advocate for policies to improve graduation rates, culturally competent curriculum, and diversity in the School Board. Owen and Lightfeather volunteered to be Education Subcommittee members. DeVerney and Isaacson offered to help out as needed. Smith bezhig/ Owen niizho to form an Education Subcommittee. **Motion passed 7:0**
  - Police Subcommittee: DeVerney gave a summary of the first meeting. They talked about implicit bias and alternative to the written test given during the Police force hiring process. They will meet again tomorrow (March 21<sup>st</sup>) and will all take the Police test and discuss and evaluate.
  - Ni Mi Win Subcommittee: DeVerney suggested using results from the Strengths Based Needs Assessment as themes for the Pow Wow. Commissioners are interested in reactivating this subcommittee, but will wait to find out the accomplishments from previous efforts before moving forward.

## 5. Old Business

- Duluth Public Arts Commission (DPAC) – Smith attended a regular DPAC meeting. She reported that DPAC members are interested in forming a working committee with a few Indigenous Commission members.
- Sobriety Feast – Owen attended that last Sobriety Feast and gave a summary. She liked the talking circle and suggested alternating between a talking circle and a speaker every other month. Newgren-Isaacson secured funding commitments from White Earth Behavioral Health and Indian Child Welfare to provide food for the Sobriety Feast each month. Behavioral Health and Indian Child Welfare will alternate providing \$100 a month for food. The Sobriety Feast is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6pm at One Roof (Central Hillside Community Center)
- Gitchi o'de Akiing – no new updates
- Photo Voice – Olson has been in communication with Jim Amell. She reserved April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Trepanier Hall for the Photo Voice Feast and is waiting to get confirmation from Amell that this date will work.

## 6. Adjournment:

DeVerney bezhig/Owen niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 7:0.**  
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

## 7. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is April 17, 2017 at 5:30 PM.