

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, May 15, 2017

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney, Amber Lightfeather, Mary Owen, Larry Heady

Absent: Kassie Helgerson, Tina Olson, Donna Newgren-Isaacson

Staff: Suzanne Kelley, Kathy Wilson

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 5:34 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Owen bezhig/ DeVerney niizho to approve the March 20, 2017 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 5:0**
- The May 11, 2017 Annual Meeting minutes needed corrections. Owen volunteered to make corrections for the next meeting.

3. Public Comment

- Sister Cities works with international students from the Humphrey School and are working to introduce the student to the local Indigenous culture more.
- Education equity meetings are happening for ISD 709. A member of the public reported hearing about comments made at one of the meetings that concerned the Commissioners, so the Indigenous Commissioners are interested in attending future meetings.

4. New Business

- Annual Meeting Report Back- Commissioners who attended the Annual Meeting gave a summary of what was discussed and had some questions about the City Charter for city staff to look into.
- Renewable Energy Meeting – Sandman encouraged other Commissioners to attend the meeting on May 17th.

5. Old Business

- Education Subcommittee – Members are Lightfeather, Owen, Edye Howes (Coordinator of American Indian Education for ISD 709), and Lightfeather’s daughter Evie (who attends school in ISD 709). Owen reported that the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee has a resolution they want to present to the School Board. The Commissioners expressed interest in supporting the resolution and Owen also think the Indigenous Commission should have their own resolution to present to the School Board and the City Council. The members of the Education Subcommittee are going to do research on best practices and work on drafting a resolution.
- Duluth Public Arts Commission (DPAC) – DeVerney and Sandman will attend a DPAC meeting to continue discussions about how DPAC and the Indigenous Commission can work together.
- Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) – Heady will attend the next HPC meeting to continue discussions about how the HPC and the Indigenous Commission can work together.

- Boards and Commissions – Heady will make a flyer to advertise the Boards and Commissions with vacancies.
- Sobriety Feast – The feasts are consistently getting 25-30 attendees. There are three community members working together to keep the Sobriety Feast going.
- Gitchi o'de Akiing – The building owners around Lake Place Park have now requested a meeting with Sandman, but Sandman has been unable to get a set time for the meeting from the Greater Downtown Council (GDC). Sandman and DeVerney will write a letter to request the meeting happen before the end of June.
- Police Subcommittee – They looked the test that every Officer has to pass and did not see anything on it that was an apparent cultural barrier. The training potential Officers get has not included information about the test, so Chief Tusken agreed to start including that in the training.

6. Adjournment:

DeVerney bezhig/Owen niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 5:0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

7. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is June 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM.