

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, June 26, 2023
411 W 1st St, Room 430, City Hall

Commissioners present: Lenelle Hrabik, Amber Lightfeather, Rene Ann Goodrich, Max Bowman, Phoebe Davis

Commissioners absent: Moira Villiard

Staff present: Kathy Wilson, Phillis Webb

Note: per the request of the Indigenous Commission members, Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes. Gegit is used to indicate that the Commission has come to a consensus in support of the motion.

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**
 - Commissioner Hrabik called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM, introductions were made.
2. **Approval of April 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes**
 - April 17, 2023 minutes. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**
3. **Public Comment**
 - No Public Comment
4. **City Reports and Updates**
 - No New Updates
5. **New Business**
 - **Approve sponsorship letter for Full Moon Ceremonies**
Table until July meeting – more discussion needed.
6. **Action Items**
 - **Full Moon Ceremony status update**
See “New Business”
7. **Subcommittees**
 - **Art in Gichi-ode’ Akiing** – Chief Buffalo mural signs on track for installation in July.
 - **Education**
 - **Housing**- Commissioner Hrabik stated that Minnesota passed a budget named “Bring it Home” budget vouchers.
 - **Ojibwe Language Pronunciation Guide and Signs in City Hall**- Project due in November. List of words are set to go. Public Arts commission is working on getting funding for physical signs. Logistics to be discussed.
 - **Sobriety Feast**
8. **Ongoing Business**
 - **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR)**

Commissioner Goodrich referenced a letter that she proposed within the meeting agenda on the Indigenous commission fully endorsing the work being done on this social justice work project. She stated that something that should be highlighted is the ongoing support from youth leading big events, such as the 3rd annual National Day of Awareness. Commissioner Goodrich also suggested that instead of having “MMIR” as a ongoing business, it should go under subcommittees. Additional information attached.

- **Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Constitution Updates**

Information on the process, draft document and email to send feedback to here:

<https://www.fdlconstitution.org/>

- **New Member Recruitment**

Staff is working to get a more formal way on what the communications office needs to streamline with process

- **Decolonization and Visibility ideas**

- Commissioner Davis went to the capital and there was an event for Indigenous. She stated that it was a very powerful moment with her being around Indigenous women, seeing all the flags, and smudging.

- Commissioner Hrabik is part of a group named “Native Women Running”, and she participated in a 10 mile run in the cities. The group is getting bigger with sponsors to Promote health and wellness.

- Commissioner Lightfeather helped organize a lectureship for the memory of late Council member VanNett at Essentia Health. She also talked to Rickie Dafoe on getting A full time healer within the hospital. She is in the ongoing process of working with Essentia on making this happen since there is a need for it.

9. **Announcements**

No new announcements

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03pm

Twin Ports Update on MMIW, MMIWR Events supported by the City of Duluth

City of Duluth, and Duluth Indigenous Commission endorsement, supporting the local MMIW,R events in 2023 With local community organizations, partners

-City of Duluth Lighting Enger Tower Red for MMIW, MMIWg2S and MMIWR 2/14 & 5/5/2023
-Duluth City Proclamations for the annual events & Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund Program

February - 8th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives March

<https://fb.me/e/UfFQ8b67>

May - 3rd annual National Day of Awareness <https://fb.me/e/47oHugY87>

Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag" Reward Fund

Established in Duluth during Jan 2021 during Trafficking Awareness Month

The first of its kind, a collaborative effort with the City of Duluth, Native Lives Matter Coalition and Mending the Sacred Hoop

Billboard for the Missing 2023

Twin Ports Campaign showcasing the official Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag" Reward Fund Announcement for Sheila St Clair

The launching of the "[Billboard for the Missing](#)" 2023 campaign was the formal "reward announcement" from the Duluth "Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag" Reward Fund program after a year-long+ fundraising efforts by local grassroots and non profit organizations. The Billboard launch is in conjunction with the 2 annual events in Twin Ports during February - May (2/14 & 5/5/2023)

During the Month of May for National Day of Awareness

During the month of May we have completing our Downtown for MMIWR awareness to bring more visibility to the missing in the Duluth area and the Sheila St Clair case

<https://facebook.com/events/s/downtown-duluth-for-mmiwg2s-mm/532529605635109/>

Miigwetch (Thank You) to the Duluth Indigenous Commission

For your endorsement, supporting at events and co hosting on the local MMIW,R events with local community organizations, community partners and the city of Duluth.

-February - 8th Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives March

-May - 3rd Annual National Day of Awareness held at Duluth City Hall

Rene Ann Goodrich, Duluth Indigenous Commissioner

Native Lives Matter Coalition, TwinPorts No More MMIWR Great Lakes

Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund Program Committee

WI DOJ MMIW Taskforce, Family / Community Impact Co - Chair