

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, April 17, 2023
411 W 1st St, Room 330, City Hall

Commissioners present: Moira Villiard, Lenelle Hrabik, Rene Ann Goodrich, Max Bowman

Commissioners absent: Phoebe Davis, Amber Lightfeather

Staff present: Kathy Wilson, Suzanne Kelley

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

- Chair Villiard called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM, introductions were made.

2. Approval of March 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- March 20, 2023 minutes. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

3. Public Comment

none

4. City Reports and Updates

- **Duluth Public Arts Commission-** Chari Villiard and Amanda Hunter from DPAC will be meeting to discuss opportunities.
- **Duluth Citizen Review Board/Police Bias Audit-** AICHO had a public invite and has been sharing the information. Commissioner Goodrich said it would be beneficial to work with the Duluth Police Department for increased participation.
- **Other Updates/Comments from City Councilors or City Staff**

5. New Business

- **Pow Wow Planning**
The Indigenous Commission, along with AIM will be hosting the Renee Van Nett pow wow on June 11 at Gichi-ode' Akiing.
- **MMIWg2s-MMIWR**
May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Woman and Girls, Two Spirt People, Relatives. There will be an event at City Hall at 11 am and proclamations from Duluth and Superior Mayors. Engler Tower will have red lighting to showcase awareness. There will be a Red Shawl Round Dance. The Indigenous Commission is endorsing this event.
- **Full Moon Ceremony**
This will be a once a month ceremony at Central Hillside Park. Fire Keepers could come. The Commission discussed fund raising for the Fire Keepers.

6. Action Items

- None at this time

7. Subcommittees

- **Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing** -Chair Villiard discussed looming grant deadlines and needing to connect with the Parks Department. City Staff said they would follow up and work with Moira.
- **Education**- no update
- **Housing**- no update
- **Ojibwe Language Pronunciation Guide** – Chair Villiard is working with Babette Sandman on the details.
- **Ojibwe Language Signs in City Hall**-Chair Villiard will follow up with the Duluth Arts Commission
- **Sobriety Feast**- continues to be a very popular event, it occurs at the last Friday of the month.

8. Ongoing Business

- **Decolonization**- Ojibwe language will be put on signs at the Duluth HRA.
- **Indigenous Commission Projects and Achievements**- information will be provided at the next meeting.
- **New member recruitment**- City Staff is working on a new flier.
- **MMIR**-Commissioners Goodman and Davies went to the state capital to expand the reward fund and programming. Duluth needs to be recognized as the location that begun the work and more resources are needed in this area.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm