

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, August 21, 2023
411 W 1st St, Room 430, City Hall

Commissioners present: Moira Villiard, Rene Ann Goodrich, Max Bowman, Phoebe Davis

Commissioners absent: Lenelle Hrabik, Amber Lightfeather,

Staff present: Kathy Wilson, Hannah Figgins

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 Davis called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM, introductions were made.

2. Approval of June 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- June 26, 2023 minutes. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

3. Public Comment

- The first Racial Bias Audit meeting was recorded and posted on the Police Department's website.

4. City Reports and Updates

- A Racial Bias Audit discussion regarding the Citizen Review Board (CRB) will be held Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 5:30pm in City Hall (room?)
- Kelly Latuska, Duluth Public Information Officer, will be coming to the September Indigenous Commission meeting to advise on how best to advertise their public events or share information.

5. New Business

- **Indigenous People's Day – Monday October 9th**
 - a. Host a Mayoral Proclamation at City Hall around noon
 - b. Kathy will send the previous years' Proclamation to Commissioners for their review
 - c. Have a Feast & Talk – ask Sam Zimmerman to speak?
 - d. Give out awards/stipends to community members, possibly in honor of Rene Van Nett
 - e. Send out a "Save the Date" with indigenous art by Sept. 9th. Moira has ideas for artists to ask.
 - f. Possibly funded by "Good Relatives Grant". Could also reach out to Public Art Commission to see if they'd be interested in sponsoring the effort to pay an indigenous artist for their contribution to Indigenous People's Day.
 - g. This will be an Action Item on Sept. Agenda
- **Feast and Forum**

- h. Have this in the afternoon, after the Proclamation
- i. Last year, this event was combined with a Commission meeting. They worked with AICHO to make food, get donations, host a big open event with Power Point Presentations to share what the commission has worked on and accomplished and get input from the community.
- j. Moira can reach out to Ivy regarding a potential collab with AICHO on this
- **Pow Wow**
 - k. May not be enough time to pull together a Pow Wow in honor of Rene Van Nett this year with everything else going on. Instead, ask the family what they are working on and support those efforts.
- **Full Moon Ceremony**

Moira will confirm with AICHO that they can sponsor Oct. & Nov. Ceremonies. They will take a break in Dec. Jan. & Feb., and begin again in March.

Full Moon Ceremony could become an expectation for the Commission to be in charge of, even after Moira is gone (she hosts the ceremonies now).
- **Bank Account for Donations and Grant Funds**

The Commission would like access to funds in their bank account with the city for use of future donations. Kathy has been in touch with city attorneys and accountants to work to create the process for taking the money out, but it will likely take a while.

6. Action Items

- **Approve Sponsorship Letter for Full Moon Ceremonies**

7. Subcommittees

- **Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing** – The mural interpretation signs have been paid for, should be up soon. Trying to find out who owns the land there, and take photos of the murals to preserve them in case they are removed by the land owners.
- **Education**
- **Housing**
- **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** – continues to be a well-attended monthly event

8. Ongoing Business

- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR)** – Goodrich is hoping to have a press conference to champion the news of the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund: Started in Duluth with a \$10,000 reward for Sheila St. Clair, now is a State Level fund with \$250,000 available for rewards.
- **Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Constitution Updates**

Information on the process, draft document and email to send feedback to here:
<https://www.fdconstitution.org/>
- **New Member Recruitment**

- **Decolonization and Visibility ideas**

9. Announcements

No new announcements

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33pm