

## DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

**Monday, December 17, 2012 – 5:15 p.m.**

**Room 303, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall**

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Present:** Ricky DeFoe, Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, Ron Hagland, Carol DeVerney, Babette Sandman and Tina Olson

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Karen Olesen, Charles Froseth

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions:** Meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. Commission members and audience introduced themselves.
- 2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** Two items were added to the agenda, Shunu Shestha on announcements concerning January as sex trafficking month and updates from Gabriel Peltier. Ricky DeFoe moved to approve the meeting summary, Carol DeVerney seconded the motion approved by all.
- 3. Review of 2012 Work Plan and DRAFT 2013 Work Plan:**

Chuck Froseth briefly reviewed last year's Work Plan and accomplishments. Defoe noted the DAIC still hadn't met with City Council. He also felt a 2013 task would be to touch base with the Human Rights Commission. It was noted the Mission Statement hasn't been adopted. There was agreement that a challenge for the DAIC was to educate people, help change the system of white privilege. An accomplishment was the establishment of the Civilian Review Board, which includes three native members. Karen Olesen reviewed a draft Work Plan for 2013. The Commission will be approving it in January. An important addition to the draft was reporting back on the findings of the current study that is underway. It was noted there needed to be clear communications. The DAIC should provide input to the Mayor on appointments. The Chairs will invite the Mayor to attend a DAIC meeting. October could be a good month to schedule a Committee of the Whole meeting with City Council. There was agreement to invite representatives of School District 709 to the March meeting. Another important dialogue to have would be with the Spirit Mountain Authority. Olesen will revise the draft Work Plan to include the input from the Commission, for consideration in January.
- 4. Public Comment:**
  - A.** Leigh Wright with the Duluth Police Department asked if she could answer any questions from the DAIC as she needed to leave for another commitment. She reported on the resolution of the complaint by Wanda Sayers, who is now satisfied with the response by the DPD. Officer Wright wasn't able to answer questions about Super One, as that is a private issue between Sayers and the store.

- B. Shunu Shestha from PAVSA distributed a handout with activities planned for January as Trafficking Awareness month. She invited DAIC members to the press conference to be held in the City Hall rotunda. A discussion on the book "Girls Like Us" will be held January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Harbor City School. There was discussion on the impact of sex trafficking in Duluth, and the need for people to get involved in ending it.
- C. Gabriel Peltier presented three issues for the DAIC to consider. The first was plans for a symposium in Duluth about the International Indian Treaty Council. Peltier hopes to be able to bring the Director, Andrea Carmen, to Duluth to help develop specific tools to eliminate racial discrimination. There is a meeting planned in January, and he will report back to the DAIC at the next meeting. Second, the DAIC was asked to be a sponsor of the Martin Luther King events planned for January 18<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Goodsky to for the DAIC to be a sponsor, seconded by DeVerney, unanimously approved. Lastly, Peltier has a meeting with Mayor Ness scheduled for 9:00 am on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and invited any interested Commissioners to attend. He wants to raise the Mayor's cultural awareness, and impart the level of disappointment when the Mayor didn't attend the Chief Buffalo pipe visitation. Sandman made a motion that the DAIC support Peltier talking with the Mayor, seconded by DeVerney, motion was approved.

**5. Old Business:**

No reports from the Environmental and Legal Sub-Committees.

Hagland brought information from the Education Committee. Minnesota is 27<sup>th</sup> among the States in four year graduation rate, 47<sup>th</sup> in subsidized lunches, and 50<sup>th</sup> in graduation rate for Native students. The numbers in Duluth are somewhat better. The District's Office of Education Equity needs to have a fair share of funding, and the City and State of Minnesota need to support education. Comments were that there needs to be support for families, as well as the students in the classroom, and this is everyone's responsibility, not just the specialists.

- 6. **Next Meeting:** January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5:15 pm in room 303, City Hall. This will be the fourth Monday of the month, due to the MLK holiday falling on the third Monday.

- 7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.