

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 18, 2012 – 5:15 p.m.

Room 303, 3rd Floor City Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Ricky DeFoe, Tina Olson, Larry Monchamp, Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, and Carol DeVerney

Absent: Ron Hagland, Priscilla Fairbanks, Donna Bergstrom, Babette Sandman

Staff: Suzanne Kelley

- 1. Approval of Agenda and May Meeting Summary:** Terry Smith made the motion to approve the meeting summary with corrections, Terry Goodsky seconded the motion; the Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

Terry Smith made the motion to approve the agenda with changes, Carol DeVerney seconded the motion; the agenda was a unanimously approved.

2. Action Items:

- Mission Statement- it was discussed that everyone bring an example of a mission statement to the next meeting so that the mission statement would be a compilation of everyone's input. This item was tabled to the next meeting.
- Job Descriptions- Terry Smith made a motion to approve the Job Descriptions as submitted. Larry Monchomp seconded the motion; the Commission unanimously approved the job descriptions. There was discussion to revise the bylaws. The bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Environmental Committee request- Gabriel Peltier presented the request. He explained that the project would involve mapping sites of archeological interest in the area. Terry Smith made the motion, "Permission and support to begin the process to investigate grant applications and opportunities for archeological sites and ethnicgraphic studies in the City of Duluth, subject to final approval by the DAIC."

3. Public Comment:

- Lt Wright- informed the DAIC that they may be hire four new officers this fall. Members of the DAIC asked if they could be on the interview panel, she told them to provide her with their names and she would forward the names to the interview panel. The Duluth Police Department has increased the number of individuals with diversity from 6 to 14. The DAIC asked for her input on the Citizen Review Board process. She told them that she appreciated the transparency the Board would provide. Ricky Defoe stated he is on the Citizen Review Board Task Board.
- Gabriel Pelteir discussed the enthicgraphic study in Elk City.
- Cruz Mendoza who introduced himself as being on the City's Human Rights Commission stated they were partners with the Unfair Campaign. Ricky Defoe described the Unfair Campaign and

told them Commission he represents the DAIC and that it is imperative that concerns are expressed.

4. Old Business:

- a. Sprit Mountain- members received an update about the progress. A copy of the proposal and maps and the letter of support from the DAIC was submitted Renee Mattson, Executive Direction, Sprit Mountain Authority. DAIC and Gabriel Peltier expressed concern that under "Schedule and Personnel" it stated the "at the request of the DAIC interested students from Fond du Lac will be invited.." when it should state, "at the request of the DAIC interested native community members will be invited..."
- b. Citizen Review Board- members discussed proposed amendments regarding having retired police officers on the board. Members also expressed concerns about the police chief having discretion about what information would be provided. Ricky stated that the DAIC has been part of the Task Force and they have been working on this item for 5 years.
- c. Subcommittee Updates:
 - i. Environmental- was discussed earlier.
 - ii. Education-Members discussed the Bully Free Collaborative. There are concerns regarding IDS 709's process in that there is no clarity. Concerns that the school policies and procedures are not effective. There were also concerns expressed about the connection between kids who are bullied and who commit suicide. Positive measured outcomes are needed.

Members cited a Minnesota study that was commissioned by the Governor's Task Force on Bullying that stated the five areas in Minnesota with the highest rate of suicide border reservations. In addition it was stated that American Native kids were not surveyed in this study, which is very troubling. The implications are upsetting. Carol DeVerney said she would follow up this item and find out why tribes are not involved with the study. This crisis needs further attention.

- iii. Ojibwa Sign Report- Larry Monchamp told the Commission that he met with Donna and they are working on where the signs will be located, how the signs will be installed, and funding for the project. They may need to work with the Public Arts Commission.

5. Worksession:

- a. Meeting with the Mayor - The Mayor is invited to the next DAIC meeting. Members would like to know "what he sees as the DAIC's role in the City process," "how does he view the DAIC," "what does he expect from the DAIC," and "How can the DAIC continue to impact decisions and policies made in the City," "What does he think about suicide and bullying in the schools and graduation rates for Native people."
- b. Committee of the Whole- It was discussed that the DAIC would like to meet with the entire City Council at a future meeting.

6. Announcements, Upcoming Events and Comments from Commission:

- a. It is important for the Native population hold leaders and/groups accountable when the Native population is not adequately represented.

- b. The Native population should have more representation and recognition, i.e. in local parades and events such as Grandma's Marathon (being at the open and closing ceremonies) and drum groups at the schools. Need to have more opportunity to reach out to the community.
- c. Concerns expressed over an editorial written in Saturday's (June 16) paper regarding the casino.
- d. There will be a health fair in Croquet on Thursday June 21.
- e. Bridgefest is July 7.
- f. AICHO job posting for Executive Director was handed out.
- g. Emails regarding Hill Fest and the Exhibit Race: Are We So Different (June 23 to October 5th) were provided.

7. Next Meeting: July 16, 2012 at 5:15 PM

8. Adjournment at 8:00.