

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 28, 2013

Present: Ricky DeFoe, Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, Ron Hagland, Carol DeVerney, Babette Sandman

Absent: Tina Olson

Staff: Ben VanTassel, Suzanne Kelley

1. Introductions and Approval of January Agenda and December 17, 2012 Minutes

- A motion was made by Ricky DeFoe and seconded by Babette Sandman to make public comment the first agenda item. The motion passed.
- A motion was made by Terry Smith and seconded by Tina Olson to accept the modified agenda for January and the minutes from the 12/17/12 meeting. The motion passed.

2. Public Comment

- Officer Wright announced that the Duluth Police Dept. has hired 11 new officers.
- Officer Wright also informed people that the Dept. is looking for minorities to participate in the intern program and would like to see more diversity on the force.
- She also reported that the police department would be hiring again in Sept. 2013.
- Office Wright responded to a woman's concern regarding the Duluth police force.

3. New Business

A. AICHO

Interim Director Michelle LeBeau and other AICHO staff were in attendance to introduce themselves to Commission members, to let them know what each of them do at AICHO, and to update DAIC members about AICHO programs, including Gimaajii Permanent Supportive Housing, Dabi'noolgan Shelter for Battered Women and Oshki Transitional Housing.

Following the discussion by AICHO staff, there was discussion by some current residents at Gimaajii and past employees who complained of mistreatment and improper behavior by AICHO staff. They gave the Commission members copies of additional complaint letters. Commission members asked people to remember to act with respect, understanding, tolerance, and patience. Others commented that it was a good start that those with complaints and AICHO staff were all here together and were listening to each other and that they all attend a tenants meeting which are held on the 3rd Monday of the month. Ricky DeFoe offered to meet with the

group and a meeting was scheduled for the following Thursday at 3:30 pm.

B. UMD Geological Mapping Project

Stacey Stark introduced herself. She on staff in the UMD Geography Dept. and is working with Sue Mulholland on the Geological Mapping of Spirit Mountain project and came to ask inform DAIC members that they had received a small grant for this project that will provide about 100 paid hours to have Native American student(s) to help with the project. Stacey asked members if they could help identify some Native students who might be interested in working on the project. She also informed them that they project will be starting soon and is expected to be completed in June, at which time they will provide a written summary of the project to the Commission.

Ron Hagland made a motion to support the mapping project with the understanding that it does not conflict with any other project previously approved by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Terry Smith and approved by all. Stacy agreed to draft a written summary of the project for DAIC members will use to outreach to Native students to find candidates to assist with the project.

C. Approve 2013 Work Plan

A motion was made by Terry Smith and seconded by Terry Goodsky to accept the 2013 Work Plan, with a change that everything currently on the work plan be moved forward one month and that the Civilian Review Board be added to the work plan for February. The motion passed.

D. Meeting with Mayor--Update from Gabriel Peltier

Gabriel Peltier informed the Commissioners of the meeting that he, Ricky and Babette had with Mayor Ness.

4. Old Business

A. Ojibwa Sign Project Update—Item was tabled until the next meeting.

B. Mission Statement

Carol suggested that they finalize the Mission Statement before the next meeting. Members appointed Carol and Babette to work on finalizing the Mission Statement for approval at the February meeting.

C. Election

Election of Co-Chairs and Secretary is scheduled for February. Staff informed members that there are currently five vacancies on the Commission and currently no applications submitted to the City for the Commission. Staff also announced the terms of each current member and reminded them of what is written in the by-laws regarding term limits. A motion was made by Ron Hagland and seconded by Terry Smith to change the by-laws to have a Chair and Vice Chair position rather than Co-Chairs. The motion passed.

A second motion was made by Ron Hagland and seconded by Terry Smith to change the by-laws to allow officers to service three two-year terms rather than the two terms allowed under the current by-laws. The motion passed.

A third motion was made by Ron Hadland and seconded by Tina Olson to change membership term limits to three 3-year terms rather than the two 2-year terms that is currently written in the by-laws. The motion passed. Lastly, Ron Hagland moved to close the discussion on amendment of the by-laws and move to nominations. The motion, seconded by Tina Olson, passed.

Terry Smith announced that he is resigning as Co-Chair and would not be available for another term. He stated that it was important for others to have the opportunity to be in a leadership role.

A motion was made by Ron Hagland, and seconded by Tina Olson to nominate Ricky DeFoe as Chair and a motion was made by Carol DeVerny and seconded by Tina Olson to nominate Babette Sandman as Vice Chair. Members agreed that gender balance was important among Commission leaders. Members decided to table nominations for the Secretary position until additional people were appointed to the Commission to fill the vacant positions.

D. Subcommittee Recap—Items were tabled until the next meeting.

1. Environment Committee
2. Education Committee
3. Legal Committee

5. Announcements, Upcoming Events and Comments from Commission

- Tina handed out a flyer on the Unfair Campaign Community Forums scheduled for 2/4/13 – 2/7/13 at various locations. For information go to www.unfaircampaign.org.
- Terry Smith announced that the Task Force on Human Trafficking will meet in Duluth on Feb. 5 and that they need a new DAIC member on the Task Force. Contact Alexis Feltes at 722-2781 (ext. 108) if interested.
- Gabe announced that the American Indian Council will meet at East High School on March 16th (all day) and that they need some topics from DAIC members.
- Ron announced that a Spring Feast is scheduled for 1/31/13 at noon and UMD.

6. Adjournment

Next Meeting: **Monday, February 25, 2013**