

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 17, 2014

Present: Ricky DeFoe, Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney, Terry Goodsky

Absent: Tina Olson, Jaron Smallwood

Staff: Suzanne Kelley

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Minutes

DeFoe called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Introductions were made.

DeVerney made a motion to approve the February 24, 2014 minutes with corrections. Goodsky seconded the motion, the motion passed.

2. Updates

A. Native Alliance –none

B. Police Update –

- The Police Department will be starting a citizen police academy and is inviting people to participate.
- The Police Department is working to revamp the hiring process to diversify the staff and is working on an Affirmation Action plan
- On March 26 at 6pm there will be a Comstat meeting at the Harrison Community Center. This is a regular meeting hosted by the Police Department to listen to community members describe where they would like the police to direct resources to address a specific situation (such as a location selling drugs)
- Leigh Wright will be retiring this spring, at this time it is unknown who will be the liaison with the Commission

3. Public Comment

- Donna Bergstrom:
 - Congratulated the Fond du Lac Boys Basketball team, who had a very good season, came in 4th in the State.
 - She also recognized the Red Lake team advancing in the finals.
 - Expressed concerns about some of the call made by officials during the basketball games and stated the team may need an advocate to insure fairness. She encouraged the Commission to review the game on DVD and then contact the Minnesota High School League with their concerns.
- Cruz Mendoz:
 - Informed the Commission about a hearing Education Minnesota was having that week.

- Informed the Commission on behalf of the Human Right Commission about the City of Duluth developing a Homeless Bill of Rights. He told the Commission that there will be a public input session in May regarding homelessness. He also told the Commission about some of the homeless outreach programs in the community, specifically Gimaajii and Elim church offering coffee and donuts to homeless individuals.

4. New Business

A. Staff Update

1. Committee of the Whole meeting– The Indigenous Commission will be meeting with City Council on March 24 to discuss the Ethnographic Study and the Needs Assessment.

2. Ethnographic Study– The selection committee to review the proposals will meet on April 1st.

5. Old Business

A. Needs Assessment with UMD – Dr. Jim Amell

1. Assistant Professor Amell from the University of Minnesota Duluth spoke with the Commission about the interview process and making connections with people. The Commission told him that they could assist him in developing relationships with people to be interviewed.

B. Feast and Forum- scheduled for 5 pm at the Washington Center Gym for April 28.

C. Spirit Mountain- The Commission would like to know more what is going on and will work with making connections. The Commission would like to keep this as an agenda item.

D. Signage- The propose signage should be consistent with the signs in Bemidji. The Commission would like to keep this topic as an agenda.

6. Announcements, Upcoming Events and Comments from Commission

- The Drum Ceremony at the State of the City went well.
- There will be a Pow-Wow on March 21 at Lincoln Park.
- There will be a Pow-Wow in Superior on March 22.
- On March 27, Unity School held an event to honor the youth in the Indigenous Community and this was very successful.
- On March 19 members of the Commission will be meeting with the Parks and Recreation Department about naming a park after Chief Buffalo.

7. Next Meeting: April 28, 2014- the Feast and Forum

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.