

# DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, Sept. 15, 2014

**Present:** Ricky DeFoe, Carol DeVerney, Tina Olson, Babette Sandman

**Absent:** Jaron Smallwood, Terry Goodsky

**Staff:** Char McLennan, Steve Bjelland

### 1. Call to Order, Introductions and Minutes

R. DeFoe called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Introductions were made. A quorum was not initially present. C. DeVerney arrived at 5:35.

### 2. Public Comment:

- DPD - Bob Shene was in attendance to do a presentation for Commission members on the Use of Force by the Duluth Police Dept. DPD Sergeant Gayle Holton was also present, and both officers responded to questions by commission members and audience members about police enforcement, racial profiling, and departmental hiring practices. They described the 'use of force continuum' and provided information about specific situations and general police scenarios. In regard to the current police hiring process, Rene VanNet stated that she was the only Native American representative on the interview panels, of which there were four. When asked about questions used during the interview process, officers stated that the same questions were asked of each applicant for the purpose of validity, and that the questions used were prepared by the HR Department, and were the same questions used in past police hiring processes (down to the same misspelled words). It was suggested that HR staff be invited to the Commission's October meeting to further discuss opportunities for input in future police hiring proceedings. Staff agreed to contact HR staff to invite them.
- Rene VanNet reported that the Native Alliance is potentially being dissolved, but that she would keep Commission members informed.

### 3. New Business

**A. Ethnographic Study** – City staff, Char McLennan stated that the Ethnographic Study application to the State had been, completed that week, needed the approval of the Commission members before it could be submitted to the State. Following review and discussion, C. DeVerney motioned to approve the application and B. Sandman seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Needs Assessment**- Jim Amell, UMD, provided a brief update on the progress of the Needs Assessment and stated that the project will continue through May of 2015. In previous discussion with Commission members, it was decided the members, along with Jim and UMD students, would do a presentation at at the St. Louis County Health and Human Services Conference, scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Persons participating in the presentation agreed to meet on 9/25/14 at 5:30 PM, to discuss the presentation of findings before the conference.

**C. Feast and Forum Recap** – The Feast and Forum was well-attended and a positive event. It was suggested that members write a ‘thank you’ letter to partners who contributed to the success of the event, such as AICHO, Boise Forte and the Drum Group. Due to limited time, further discussion was tabled until the next meeting, at which time Committee members need to determine the best use of the funds donated by Boise Forte for the event.

**4. Approval of July meeting minutes** – T. Olson motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. C. DeVerney seconded. The motioned carried unanimously.

**5. Adjournment:**

C. D. Verney motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45. R. Defoe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Next Meeting:** October 20, 2014, 5:15 PM