

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, February 8, 2016

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Tina Olson, Carol DeVerney, Victor St. George,

Absent: Donna Isaacson, Hannah Smith, Amber Stewart, Kassie Helgerson

Staff: Keith Hamre, Suzanne Kelley, Adam Fulton

Other: Mazie Ventura

Note: Per the request of the DIC members two Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes – bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion.

1. Call to Order, Introduction

- Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:38pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of January meeting minutes

- St. George bezhig/DeVerney niizho to approve the January 11, 2016 meeting minutes – motion passed 4:0.

3. Public Comment

- Renee Van Nett represents Community Action Duluth and Citizen Review Board communicated the focus on Community Police and a new project, “Know Your Right”. Renee also discussed the process of hiring a new Police Chief and that the expectation was that the position would be filled by June/July. Renee voiced that she would appreciate the Indigenous Commission to be part of this process.
- Tari Rayala represents the City of Duluth, City of Architect; she is at the meeting to inform the Commission on the Chambers Grove project.

4. Old Business

- It was approved for Old Business to be come before New Business
- Gitchi O’de Akiing
 - Hamre gave an update on the application for, Gitchi O’de Aking. The Commission was provided with the, “City of Duluth Process for Commemorative Naming of Public Places.”
 - Hamre informed the Commission that the application is moving forward; the next step is to continue to talk to stakeholders. He clarified that the park will remain a city park, therefore all of the programing related to the park would be done by the City Parks Department.
 - Hamre explained that park would be involved with the Lakewalk Master planning process (occurring this June and July) and the Superior Streetscape design process (occurring this May-August) due to park’s connectivity between the two entities.
 - The Indigenous Commission discussed how other stakeholders need to get involved with the Gitch O’de Aking application, such as, Sister Cities, Greater Downtown Duluth, Park and Recreation Commission and Public Arts Commission.
 - Sandman told the Commission about the synergy of Gitchi O’de Aking meaning “a grand heart place” and the GDC rebranding the downtown area as the “HART” of Duluth.
- Ethnographic Study

- Staff handed out the rough draft of, “An Ethnographic Study of Indigenous Contribution to the City of Duluth”. This was created to educate the information in the Ethnographic Study. The Indigenous Commission was impressed and would appreciate seeing more work.
- Community Needs Assessment
 - Sandman and DeVerney met with Jim Amell regarding the Strength Based Community Assessment, the next step of this assessment is to analyze data. There is a plan to present results at the Feast and Forum this year.

5. New Business

- Chambers Grove
 - Rayala wants to add a gazebo with multi-functions and asked commission if it is culturally appropriate to provide a space for a drum circle.
 - Rayala discussed the potential to include a sign with Indigenous language in the Chambers Grove Park and asked for the correct spelling of Nahgahchiwanong.
 - The Commission encouraged Rayala to contact a fluent speaker in Fond Du Lac to confirm the correct spelling.
 - Van Nett will contact local drum group to discover the potential to provide a space for drum circle in Chamber Grove.
- 2016 Work Plan
 - The Commission made changes to the 2016 Work Plan
 - New Items has been added to March, such as, to establish a subcommittee to focus on a group gathering spot. A new item has been added to May, to review bylaws.
 - Motion to accept Work Plan, Olson bezhig/ DeVerney niizho-motion passed 4:0.

6. Election of Officers

- Sandman was nominated for Chair, St. George bezhig/Olson niizho. She was unanimously approved to be the Chair.
- Olson was nominated for Vice Chair, Sandman bezhig /DeVerney niizho . She was unanimously approved to be the Vice Chair.
- St. George was nominated for Secretary, DeVerney bezhig/Olson niizho. He was unanimously approved to be the Secretary.

6. Announcements, Upcoming Events and Comments from the Commission.

- Trepanier Hall will hold a Memorial walk, February 13th to honor murdered and missing women, at 1:00 pm. The memorial walk is from Trepanier Hall to Maritime Visitor Center in Canal Park.
- One Roof will host an event at 1:00 pm, Saturday February 14th to educate and honor overdose victims and families.
- The Citizen Review Board are looking for more people to add to their board.

7. Adjournment:

Olson bezhig/ St. George niizho to adjourn meeting – motion passed 4:0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

8. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is March 21st, 2016 at 5:30 PM.