

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, November 21, 2016

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Kassie Helgerson, Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney, Victor St. George, Donna Newgren-Isaacson

Absent:, Tina Olson, Hannah Smith, Amber Lightfeather

Staff: Suzanne Kelley, Kate Van Daele

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.

IN PROGRESS

1. Call to Order, Introduction

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

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- St. George bezhig/ Isaacson niizho to approve the October 17, 2016. **Motion passed 5:0**
- Issacson corrected the November 3, 2016 Special Meeting with the Duluth Police Department minutes to show that she was present at that meeting. Helgerson bezhig with the change, DeVerney niizho. **Motion passed 5:0.**

3. Public Comment/Actions

- **Police Liaison Committee-** members of the public, including Ricky Defoe and Cruz Mendoza spoke discussed the Special November 3, 2016 meeting, specifically about the Implicit bias test and anti-racism training. It was discussed that more research about anti-discrimination dialog circles and communication with the Police Department and native youth is needed, therefore the Commission established a working subcommittee to work with the Police Department. Members of the Commission, along with Defoe and Mendoza stated they were interested in being on this subcommittee. DeVerney bezhig/Issacson niizho to approve the establishment of this committee. **Motion passed 5:0.**

4. New Business

- **Parks Stewardship Team:** The Parks Department Representative, Judy Gibbs talked about the naming of trails at Chambers Grove and City Council Resolution #16-0782R which authorized the Duluth Indigenous Commission to act as a cultural liaison for Park and Recreation Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage. The Commission will meet with Parks Department at Chambers to be part of the naming process. It was recommended that Ricky Defoe and other native speakers be part of this process. The Commission decided to establish a Parks and Recreation Liaison Subcommittee. DeVerney bezhig/Issacson niizho. **Motion passed 5:0.**
- **Public Arts Commission Collaboration:** The Public Arts Commission would like to invite native people, including artists to be on the Commission. Duluth Indigenous Commission members will create a list of local artists and interested people.
- **Dakota Access Pipeline Resolution:** The Commission declared their Support for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in their opposition of the Dakota access pipeline (DAPL) with a resolution of

support. St. George bezhig/DeVerney niizho. **Motion passed 5:0.** Afterwards the Indigenous Commission members went to the Duluth City Council meeting that was occurring in City Council Chambers and asked City Council to support the Resolution, the members read the Resolution into record.

- **Review Bylaws.** It was determined that this will be reviewed and revised in 2017
- **Planning for 2017 Work Plan/Retreat.** This item was continued to the next meeting.

5. Old Business

- **Indigenous Peoples' Day-Mayoral Proclamation:** the 2016 Proclamation was handed out to the members for their review and comment to prepare for 2017.
- **Sobriety Feast:** This has been a success, however more involvement is needed.
- **Interpretive Signage Project:** was addressed under Park Stewardship
- **Ni Mi Win Pow Wow:** Will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Gitchi O'de Akiing:** 1). The Gitchi O'de Akiing naming process will be part of the Lakewalk Master Plan that is being led by the City of Duluth Park's Department. The Park's Department Representative Judy Gibbs asked if any of the Commission members would be interested in being an active participant /stakeholders in the plan. Members expressed interest and mentioned native speakers who also would be appropriate to be involved, including Skip Sandman and Rick DeFoe. Cruz Mendoza stated that the Ethnographic Study should be used in the Lakewalk Master Plan. A motion was made to develop a Lakewalk Master Plan Subcommittee to assist the Park's Department in the Master Plan update. Issacson bezhig/DeVerney niizho. **Motion passed 5:0.**
 - 2). Sandman stated that Joel Sipress is setting up a meeting with the Greater Downtown Council to discuss the Gitchi O'de Akiing name.

6. Adjournment:

Helgerson bezhig/DeVerney niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 5:0.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

7. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is January 23, 2017 at 5:30 PM.