

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
Monday, May 21, 2018
City Hall, Room 405

Present: Babette Sandman, Larry Heady, Carol DeVerney, Melissa Deverney, Phoebe Davis, Bob Miller

Absent: Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Amber Lightfeather, Mary Owen, Kassie Helgerson

Staff: Kathy Wilson, Adam Fulton

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 5:47 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Heady bezhig/C. DeVerney niizho to approve the March 19, 2018 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 6:0**
- Davis bezhig/M. DeVerney niizho to approve the April 21, 2018 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 6:0**

3. Public Comment

- Sandman brought up housing issues and requested more information about housing and landlords at the next meeting
- AICHO won a LISC award
- Thunderbird-Wren House is looking at a new site where they would be able to expand the number of beds they have and possibly have a Sweat Lodge
- Community member brought up instances of racial discrimination at work. The Committee recommended they contact the City’s Human Rights Officer. City staff will provide them with contact information.

4. New Business

- Earned Sick and Safe Time: Heady bezhig/C. DeVerney niizho to pass the Resolution in support of the Earned Sick and Safe Time Ordinance, as amended. **Motion passed 6:0**

5. Action Items

- Gitchi O’de Consultant Preparations/Site Visit – Consultant has been contacted and will be writing a proposal for the work they will do to assist the Commission in the visioning process.
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution- Sandman working with Councilors to plan for next steps
- Eagle Staff Resolution- working with Council to figure out how it will be implemented

6. Subcommittees

- Education – no subcommittee members were present to give an update

- Ni Mi Win – fundraising issues caused plans to change. The goal is now to begin planning for next year. City staff will send subcommittee members the contact information for Bayfront reservations so they can see which dates are available in 2019.
- Opioids/Natives Against Heroin (NAH)- NAH will be in the Memorial Day Parade (in West Duluth) this year. They are planning to build the Sweat Lodge soon at the Central Hillside Park.

7. Old Business

- Ojibwe Language Signs - Sandman volunteered to work on canvassing local businesses. City Staff will put together materials using Bemidji materials.
- DPAC – M. DeVerney volunteered to meet with Public Arts Commission members, City Staff will send her contact information to set up a meeting.

8. Announcements/Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm

9. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is June 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM.



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EARNED SICK AND SAFE TIME ORDINANCE

WHEREAS Native Americans living in the Great lakes region of the United States experience health disparities similar to all other Native people in North America; and,

WHEREAS lack of access to health care is cited as a primary obstacle to improved health care for Native American people; and,

WHEREAS Native Americans experience violence more than twice as often of any other ethnic group; and,

WHEREAS victims of violence can require time away from work for activities such as counseling, ceremonies, legal advice, medical care and to ensure their safety; and,

WHEREAS Native Americans occupy a disproportionate number of low wage positions offering minimal if any health benefits or leave and therefore are limited in access to both health care and time to ensure they and/or their children are safe; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED that the Duluth Indigenous Commission is strongly in favor of the Earned Sick and Safe Time city ordinance co-sponsored by City Councilors Hansen and Hobbs.

Certification

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 silent, with a quorum of 6 being present at a regular meeting of the Duluth indigenous Commission held on May 21, 2018.