

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
Monday, March 18, 2019
City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Mary Owen, Larry Heady, Phoebe Davis, Amber Lightfeather, Kassie Helgerson, Carol DeVerney, Bob Miller

Absent: Melissa Deverney, Millie Richard

Staff: Suzanne Kelley, Kathy Wilson

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 5:34 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Owen bezhig/Miller niizho to approve the February 11, 2019 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 7:0** (one Commissioner arrived after this vote)

3. Public Comment

- PhotoVoice project – Funding is in place to have community forums to display the photos with food available for community members and a summary of the results of the project
- Human Rights discrimination reporting process – a community member discussed navigating the reporting process for a discrimination complaint. Some members of the indigenous Commission plan to attend a Human Rights Commission meeting to better understand the reporting process and how discrimination complaints are handled.
- May Day Celebration – community members will be holding a May Day celebration on May 1st at Gichi-ode’ Akiing.

4. New Business

- Gitchi-ode’ Akiing next steps-
 - The Naming Ceremony will be planned sometime in May. The date and invitation are being finalized, as well as plans for catering the event.
- 2019 Indigenous Commission calendar- the calendar will be put on the back of the agenda going forward so that it can be updated as needed throughout the year.
- Bridge Project- Helgerson attended a BendTec tour and visioning session for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over I-35 in Lincoln Park. It’s a very visible bridge for people driving into Duluth from the south and the visioning ideas are to make it more visually appealing and have the design reflect the cultures of the area.
- HRC Statement – The Human Rights Commission submitted a statement they would like to read at the beginning of their meeting acknowledging that we are all on Indigenous lands. The HRC asked the Indigenous Commission for feedback on the statement. Indigenous Commissioners discussed the statement during the meeting and also asked for a few days to review it individually. City staff will compile feedback and send it to the Human Rights Officer.

- Bentleyville – Bentleyville was asked by Indigenous community members to incorporate aspects of Indigenous culture into its lights displays. Bentleyville sent an artistic rendering of a potential display for the Indigenous Commission to comment on and asked if they had other ideas. The Indigenous Commission brainstormed ideas and would like a representative from Bentleyville to attend one of their future meetings to discuss this opportunity more. City staff will invite Bentleyville to a future meeting.

5. Action Items

- Eagle Staff Resolution- The Eagle Staff is ready, Sandman will coordinate with Councilor Anderson to determine which Council meeting the Resolution will go to.
- Protocol for Commission to Address Important Community Happenings- Related to bylaws discussion – new subcommittee for review of bylaws, Owen will chair and draft a timeline for reviewing the bylaws.
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution- no updates

6. Subcommittees

- Education – spread the word about running for School Board seats, more representation needed for Indigenous students.
- Police – C. DeVerney has been attending the group working to develop policy for how the police will use the protective gear.
- Ni Mi Win – Miller and Davis are working on funding sources/grants.
- Opioids/Natives Against Heroin (NAH)/Sweat Lodge/Sobriety Feast- there were 65 people at the last Sobriety Feast. Sobriety Feasts are the 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 6pm @ One Roof. Sweat Lodge is in progress.
- Bylaws- no updates

7. Old Business

- Collaboration with Duluth Public Arts Commission- no updates
- Ni Mi Win Heritage Preservation Commission – Helgerson and Sandman will work to inventory the Ni Mi Win items so the HPC could help them find the right grant funds to preserve and display the items
- Onigamiinsing naming- in progress

8. Announcements/Adjournment:

- A fox fur hat was donated to the Indigenous Commission in honor of the anonymous donor's father. The Indigenous Commission is to honor the donor's father by finding the right person to wear it.
- A summit about the Green New Deal will take place at AICHO on April 27th @ 9:30am. Skip Sandman will be opening the celebration and Winona LaDuke is the keynote speaker.
- Davis still involved in ongoing Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution discussions about blood quantum.
- Phoebe Davis and Jeremy are teaching drumming, singing, and dancing, tentatively on Sundays, at the Washington Artists Co-op.
- May Day Distress Call for missing and murdered Indigenous women will be on May 1st at 4:30pm at Canal Park beach.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm

9. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is April 15, 2019 at 3:30 PM.