

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
Monday, July 15, 2019
City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Larry Heady, Amber Lightfeather, Kassie Helgerson, Carol DeVerney

Absent: Melissa Deverney, Millie Richard, Mary Owen, Phoebe Davis, Bob Miller

Staff: Suzanne Kelley, Kathy Wilson

Note: Per the request of the IC 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 5:54 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Heady bezhig/Helgerson niizho to approve the March 18, 2019 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 5:0**

3. Public Comment

- Honor the Earth provided an update on Rights of Nature and the work they are doing in Duluth.
- League of Women Voters provided a reminder that the primary election is on August 13th.
- Community members are concerned about finding a safe location for a long standing community fire and food gathering.

4. New Business

- Gichi-ode’ Akiing Naming Ceremony recap - The Naming Ceremony had 200+ attendees. It was an emotional ceremony and great to see so many people from different backgrounds in attendance. Heady will to make a template for Thank You notes.
- PhotoVoice – Jim Amell gave an update and a suggestion for the 4th assignment: What is it like to be Indigenous in Duluth? There was support from the Commission for this question/assignment.

5. Action Items

- Chief Buffalo Mural – Subcommittee has been working with Zeitgeist. Helgerson took a letter of introduction/explanation to Red Cliff and was able to connect with many descendants of Chief Buffalo. Chief Buffalo’s descendants are supportive of a mural project and excited about Gichi-ode’ Akiing. There will be a Chief Buffalo Memorial Feast on August 21st at 6pm and the mural painting will start on August 22nd.
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution- no updates

6. Subcommittees

- Art in Gichi-ode’ Akiing – think about future sessions with consultant after the mural project is completed
- Education – no update
- Police – C. DeVerney will send draft of riot gear policy when she gets it

- Ni Mi Win – no updates
- Opioids/Natives Against Heroin (NAH)/Sweat Lodge/Sobriety Feast- the Feast is going strong and continues to have good attendance. Sobriety Feasts are the 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 6pm @ One Roof.
- Bylaws- no updates

7. Old Business

- Collaboration with Duluth Public Arts Commission- no updates
- Ni Mi Win Heritage Preservation Commission – Helgerson and Sandman are working 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:

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm

9. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is August 19, 2019 at 5:30 PM.