

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, November 16, 2020
Virtual WebEx Meeting

Present: Babette Sandman, Roxanne DeLille, Moira Villiard, Kassie Helgerson, Amber Lightfeather, Rochelle Goodrich, Larry Heady, Phoebe Davis

Absent: Carol DeVerney

Staff: Kathy Wilson, Mollie Hinderaker

Note: per the request of the Indigenous Commission 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 and introductions

- Co-chair Sandman Called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM, Introductions were made.

2. Approval of September 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

- Helgerson *bezhig*, DeLille *niizho* to approve the Duluth Indigenous Commission meeting minutes from September 21, 2020.
- **Motion Passed 8:0**

3. Public Comment

- Summary of written comments received prior to the meeting
 - City Staff stated that no comments were received.
- Virtual public comment via WebEx
 - An AmeriCorps volunteer working in Lincoln Park informed the Commission about a grant application they have submitted to help fund making government more accessible to community members and sustainability initiatives
 - Spirit Mountain update – Skip Sandman has been appointed Spirit Mountain Spiritual Advisor
 - Arc Northland provided an overview of the services they offer and came to the meeting as part of efforts to strengthen relationships and outreach with the Indigenous community. They also informed the Commission about a grant they have applied to related to FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorders) and will keep the Commission updated as to if they receive the grant.

4. New Business

- Statement on Racism in the Duluth Community (Human Rights Commission)

- Human Rights Commission (HRC) Vice-Chair, Mark Hakes, discussed the HRC's want to create a statement on racism in Duluth, collaborating with other Commission's to create it. Indigenous Commissioners DeLille, Heady, Davis, and Sandman volunteered to work with the HRC on this project. City staff will send their contact information to Mark so they can coordinate a working group.
- AIM update
 - Co-chair Helgerson gave an update on AIM's work to support people experiencing homelessness. Right now the group's efforts include providing supplies, winter clothing, and housing assistance for people who are experiencing homelessness. People are currently living in tents, trying to heat with candles. AIM is working to address these urgent needs. Community partners, such as Loaves & Fishes, Deb Holman, and Peace Church are helping by providing food and supports. At least six RNs, nurse practitioners, and a retired therapist are volunteering their time to do health checks and provide community services.
- Indigenous Calendar
 - Commissioner Heady shared a draft of the calendar. He asked that Commissioners review it in more detail and email him with any missing events that should be added or other ideas.
- Decolonization and visibility ideas
 - Commissioners noted that the Indigenous calendar discussed previously is a great example of a visibility idea. Other ideas discussed include practicing full moon ceremonies and making a point to be in your right frame of mind or Anishinaabe mind.

5. Action Items

- Letter on visibility and Indigenous Commission role as advisory commission to the Mayor and City Council
 - Letter in progress. Commission also discussed its role as advisory commission to Mayor and City Council. They plan to request ongoing conversations and reports from City Council, City Administration, and City Departments so the Commission has a better understanding of ongoing projects and issues. The Commission requested City staff update the agenda format to include a section for these types of reports and discussions.
- Resolution to support Rights of Nature Group
 - Commissioner Heady shared a draft version of the resolution requesting feedback from other commissioners. The Commission requested City staff invite the Rights of Nature group to a future meeting to review the document before the Commission votes on it.

6. Subcommittees

- Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing
 - No update
- Education
 - No update
- Police
 - No update
- Ni Mi Win- Collaboration with Historic Preservation Commission for Ni Mi Win preservation
 - Commissioner Davis volunteered to assist with inventory of items.
- Opioids/AIM/Sweat Lodge
 - AIM updates discussed in previous agenda item.
- Policy
 - Commission requested that Local Designation of Sacred Sites be made an Action Item for the next agenda.

7. Old Business

- none

8. Announcements/Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

9. Next Meeting December 21, 2020