

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, March 21, 2022
Virtual WebEx Meeting

Commissioners present: Babette Sandman, Lenelle Hrabik, Kassie Helgerson, Amber Lightfeather, Roxanne DeLille, Moira Villiard, Phoebe Davis

Commissioners absent: Carol Deverney, Cayla Bellanger DeGroat

Staff present: Kathy Wilson, Phillis Webb

Note: per the request of the Indigenous Commission members, Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes. Bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion. Gegit is used to indicate that the motion passed with majority support.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

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

2. Approval of February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Lightfeather bezhig / Davis niizho to approve the February 28, 2022 minutes. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

3. Public Comment

- Christina spoke on the Duluth Public Arts commission regarding opportunities to collaborate. She also stated that the Duluth Art Institute is having a ceremony for historical stamp pieces opening April 29th. There is an exhibition of the original stamps from George Morrison. They are coming from 7 different museums.

4. City Reports and Updates

- Staff member Kathy Wilson stated that Carl Crawford sent an email about the Citizen Review Board on March 22nd at 5:30pm. They will have Officer Hewitt attending, but no question & answer afterwards. Co-chair Sandman explained the previous situation on the issues with Officer Hewitt. The commission was discussing whether or not to invite Officer Hewitt to a future commission meeting.

5. New Business

- Solidarity Run, Ride and Roll- Lori Cohen from ECPAT-USA the stated that their program is an international agency to look at the sex trafficking of children in Asia, but it was also an issue in the U.S as well. ECPAT would like to be allies to raise awareness, and they have done awareness events in the past & have partnered with an indigenous community in Long-Island, New York. They had a meeting on what would be culturally appropriate. Co-chair Sandman stated that the date would be August 27th. Lori suggested that bringing in the University of Minnesota students into the event, which co-chair Sandman stated that was one of the main reasons the date is now in August, at the same time when college is back in session. Lori also suggested if Analeisha (Minnesota Power) could be a sponsor that would get the ball rolling. Analeisha stated

that she will look into it and get back to the commission. There was also a logo sent in the chat for the event. Public

- City Council Committee of the Whole- Delille bezhig / Hrabik niizho to formally request a Committee of the Whole with the City Council to discuss the Commission's accomplishments in 2021 and their plans for 2022.
Motion passed: Gegot - All.

6. Action Items

- **Duluth Ojibwe Language Project-** Commissioner Villiard is working on signage, city staff will send Villiard the Duluth Ojibwe Language flyer to use as a reference.
- **World Water Day-** Commissioners would like to get a reminder from staff each year so that the commission can acknowledge this day.

7. Subcommittees

- **AIM/Opioids/Sweat Lodge/Sobriety Feast**
 - The conductor of the feast recently passed away. The commission did not want to ask the family of the conductor too soon, however, Joel (the brother of the conductor) stated that he will keep the sobriety feast going. Also, there will be a round dance.
- **Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing**
 - Commissioner Villiard spoke on the Chief Buffalo memorial, and she is going to work on the documentary for the memorial. Also, she started a draft of a sign with Ojibwe language on it as well. The commission brought up the historical artifacts of Chief Buffalo at University of Minnesota Library and retrieving them back.
- **Bylaws-** Rebecca St. George discussed with the commission the terms and how that effects how they move forward. She also discussed what can and can't be taken out of the bylaws. City Attorney St. George said the existing bylaws state that new bylaws must be approved by the Commission at their annual meeting in January. The subcommittee plans to continue work and have new bylaws ready to vote on next January.
- **Education-** The library has now added an Ojibwe language in their facility.
- **Housing-** Commissioner Hrabik stated that she is working on increasing staff to help people utilize their vouchers. She would also like to have a "ready to rent" class, which would be the basics of home living (how to be a good neighbor etc.). Then, whoever completes the class can be put on a list that will be given to landlords.
- **Police/Racial Bias Audit Task Force-** no updates
- **Sacred Sites-**Co-chair Sandman read a portion from the commissions rights of nature resolution
- **Spirit Mountain-**no updates

8. Old Business

- **Decolonization and Visibility Ideas**

9. Announcements

10. Next Meeting April 18, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm