

# **DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, May 20, 2013**

**Present:** Ricky DeFoe, Babette Sandman, Terry Goodsky, Carol DeVerney, Jaron Smallwood, Tina Olson

**Absent:** Terry Smith, Tobias Shotley

**Staff:** Ben VanTassel, Suzanne Kelley

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

- Co-Chair Defoe called the meeting to order at 5:29 PM.
- Introductions were made.

### **2. Approval of Agenda and the April 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

- Motion by Goodsky, seconded by Smallwod to approve the agenda. Motion passed; unanimous.
- Motion by DeVerney; seconded by Olson to approve the April 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes with corrections. Motion passed; unanimous.

### **3. Public Comment**

- Tony Hernadez and Renee VanNett presented the Commission with a petition which stated its purpose as being, "This petition is in support of returning American Indian Community Housing Organization and its management back to the Native American Community." They stated that over 100 people have signed this petition.
- John Day of AICHO explained that there is a need for more staffing at AICHO and they are looking to hire more staffing and to hire an Executive Director. He asked for recommendations for the Executive Director position.
- Reyna Crowe presented a letter and expressed her concerns about the Gimaajii center and the stress it is creating on the community.
- Maggie File discussed the Dismantling Racism Team and collaboration with events.

### **4. Speakers**

- A. Blair Powless —from the Citizens Review Board reported to Commission about the complaint acceptance policy. He also invited everyone to a presentation by a lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Union regarding citizen rights, on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

- B. Lt. Wright of the Duluth Police Department discussed communication procedures and how they usually contact people by phone. She was asked about an alleged incident at the detox center. She will look into the incident and report back.

## **5. New Business:**

Approval of the Amendment to the Bylaws: Motioned by DeVerney, seconded by Smallwood to approve the changes to the bylaws. Specifically, the resolution stated:

WHEREAS, The Commission was created by the Duluth City Council pursuant to Ordinance 9529, amending Chapter 2 of the Duluth City Code, 1959, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Administration; and

WHEREAS, Commission on May 20, 2013 followed the procedure described in Article XI- Amendment of Bylaws to amend the American Indian Commission Bylaws.

WHEREAS, an exact copy of the amended language of the bylaws was provided to Commission members and to the public on March 18, 2013. The agenda for March 18, 2013 stated the notice of intent to amend the bylaws and included when the amendment would be voted on.

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to the bylaws are as followed:

- 1) changed the Name of the Commission from the American Indian Commission to the Indigenous Commission;
- 2) changed Article IV, the length of appointed terms from two to three terms
- 3) changed Article V, the Officers from two Co-Chairs to a Chair and Vice-Chair;

Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. Old Business**

- A. Ojibwa Sign Project- Smallwood will be working on this project. City received a grant, he will continue working with staff.
- B. Spirit Mountain Update- Defoe provided an update, Veronica Nelson has resigned from the Sprit Mountain Recreation Authority Board, not too sure who will be the main contact.
- C. Ethnographic Study Update- There was great attendance at the April 27 meeting. There may be another one in the future.
- D. Ogichidaa Update- Smallwood is continuing on this project.
- E. Feast and Forum- No updates.

## **7. Announcements, Upcoming Events, and Comments from Commission**

- Skip Sandman discussed a grant that was awarded to assist in recruiting foster parents. Need foster parents for native children. He said it would be okay for the parent to be a single parent. The grant goes in effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- There are many pow wows coming up, including at: Cass Lake, Bayfront, Lake Vermillion, and Hinkley.
- 

## **8. Next Meeting**

- The next meeting will be Monday, June 17, 2013.
- **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.