

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 27, 2012 – 5:15 p.m.

Room 303, 3rd Floor City Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Babette Sandman, Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, Donna Bergstrom, Ricky DeFoe, Donna BlueBird.

Absent: Ron Hagland, Priscilla Fairbanks.

Staff: Karen Olesen, Ben VanTassel

Others: Jeanne Nelson, Carol Deverny, Skip Sandman, Gabriel Peltier, Louise Levy, Astrid Levy, Joe Boshey, Ron Boshey, and Bridget Thres.

1. Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Introductions: Co-Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves. Bergstrom asked to add Louise Levy Announcement to the agenda and AICHO housing project concerns to Old Business.

Moved by Donna Bergstrom, second by Terry Goodsky, to approve the agenda with additions. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Review and Approval of Meeting Summary from January 23, 2012:

Moved by Ricky Defoe, second by Donna Bergstrom, to approve the January 23, 2012 minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Louise Levy Announcement

Louise Levy announced that she would like to present a check to the Commission in hopes to develop a bilingual sign program within the City. The Commission like the idea and thanked Ms. Levy for her contribution.

4. Election of Officers

Terry Smith reviewed nominations from previous meeting: Terry Smith, Ricky Defoe, and Donna Bergstrom for Co-Chair and Donna Bergstrom for Secretary. Elections were held. Terry Smith and Ricky Defoe were elected Co-Chair and Donna Bergstrom was elected Secretary. Terry Smith continued to chair the meeting.

5. Old Business

A. Review and approve Mission Statement. The individuals hoping to meet prior to the meeting to work on the wording of the Mission Statement were unable to do so. The group will meet prior to the March 19th meeting at 4:30.

B. AICHO housing project concerns. Community member Jeanne Nelson expressed concerns on some of the selection process and timeline that AICHO is using to select those who will be housed in the Gimaajii project. She has been receiving many questions from other community members and she is unsure how to answer them, and would like to be able to pass on correct information. Community member Ron Boshey expressed interest and offered to try to get information about the project. Mr. Boshey stated he is now on the HRA Board and is interested

in these types of housing issues. The Commission also discussed the need for a community mailbox for homeless people that would assist them in being able to receive mail, which is beneficial for getting into housing like the Gimaajii project. Commission will invite an AICHO representative to the next meeting and send them the concerns that arose tonight.

6. Committee Recap

A. Housing Committee- No report.

B. Environment Committee- Donna Bergstrom reported on the Spirit Mountain Board Sub-Committee meeting that Veronica Nelson had set up. Spirit Mountain is looking at renaming the area, updating bylaws, implementing the Master Plan, planning a Grand Avenue Chalet, and funding local art to be brought into the buildings. It was suggested at the Sub-Committee that Native American art be used, and some names of local artists were submitted. Co-Chair Smith asked Skip Sandman, Babette Sandman, and Gabriel Peltier to form a Sub-committee to focus on Spirit Mountain issues.

C. Health Committee- No report.

D. Education Committee- Community member Carol Deverny talked about the issue of School Bullying. Stated that the school process is complicated and requires victims to remember names and dates which is often difficult. Ricky Defoe proposed inviting the School Superintendent to the next meeting to discuss how bullying can be addressed. Skip Sandman noted that bullying has been going on for years and it needs to change. Babbette Sandman said getting people together to talk about these types of issues is important for change. Co-Chairs Smith and Defoe will develop the language for the letter and staff will forward the invitation to the School Superintendent for the March meeting. Co-Chair Smith asked Carol Deverny to serve on the Education Sub-committee.

E. Crime Committee- Terry Smith and Ricky Defoe gave a presentation to new police officer recruits talking about American Indian issues.

F. Child Welfare Committee- No report.

G. Civilian Review Board Committee- Ricky Defoe mentioned that progress is slow. There are discussions as to whether there should be an ordinance or contractual language. The process will start moving forward again in March.

The Commission discussed the appointment of new Commission Members. Staff Karen Olesen stated that the current process is for the appointment committee to make recommendations, then the Mayor makes the appointment, and the Council approves the appointments. Olesen suggested Commissioners talk to the Appointments Committee or the Mayor about what qualities they are looking for in Commission Members.

7. New Business

A. Discussion on Meet and Greet with American Indian families and staff of ISD #709- Terry Smith briefly discussed where the event is to be located and encouraged all to attend.

B. Discussion on Subcommittee Assignments- Donna mentioned that it would be beneficial to wait until new Commission members are appointed before having this discussion.

Moved by Donna Bergstrom, second by Ricky Defoe, to table Discussion on Subcommittee Assignments. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Discuss dialogue process with Mayor and Administration- Olesen discussed some opportunities for the Commission to be effective in influencing City Council and Administration decisions. Setting up Committee of the Whole Meeting with the City Council, inviting the

Mayor to Commission meetings, attending Mayors Night, and other possible ways to influence City policy. Ricky asked how far in advance the Committee of the Whole meeting should be scheduled. Olesen stated that it depends on the Council's availability. She suggested that the Committee talk about possible subjects to discuss with the Council and then work on setting a date.

D. Review of City Departments and Operations- Olesen reviewed the City Organizational Chart and briefly discussed the City Departments. Donna Bergstrom asked that Lt. Wright be added as a standing agenda item so they can continue to foster a relationship with the Police Department. Terry Smith noted that the Commission had discussed previously if there was an office that kept track of demographics on City Employees. Olesen suggested that the Human Rights Office likely tracked that information.

7. Announcements, Upcoming Events, and Comments from Commission

Terry Smith noted that a Sub-committee meeting to talk about the mission statement will be held at 4:30 prior to the next commission meeting on March 19, 2012. Donna Bergstrom noted that the Unfair Campaign will be meeting on February 29th. Olesen noted that since the Commission was unable to discuss the Commissioner Job Description and 2012 Work Plan it will need to be finalized next month. Terry Goodsky noted that there will be a pow wow at the Superior Middle School on March 10th.

Adjournment:

Moved by Donna Bergstrom, second by Terry Goodsky, to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2012, Room 303, starting at 5:00 p.m. The Mission Statement Sub-committee will meet at 4:30, same location.