

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, January 23, 2023
411 W 1st St, Room 430, City Hall

Commissioners present: Babette Sandman, Lenelle Hrabik, Amber Lightfeather, Moira Villiard, Phoebe Davis

Commissioners absent: Roxanne DeLille

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

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

2. Approval of June 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Villiard bezhig / Hrabik niizho to approve the June 27, 2022 minutes. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

3. Review and Approval of Revised Bylaws-City Attorney Rebecca St. George

- The commission took time to look at the complete revised bylaws. Chair Sandman made a motion for approval: Villiard bezhig / Lightfeather niizho to approve the bylaws **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

4. Indigenous Funeral Ceremonial Fires-Fire Chief Shawn Krizaj and Fire Marshal Lisa Consie

- Chief Shawn Krizaj and Fire Marshal Lisa Consie attended the meeting to gather more information on the how to better support the indigenous community with religious fires, and how to respond more appropriately.
- The Chief stated that they are in no way trying to reinforce anything. The commission also stated that there would also be full moon ceremonies, along with the funeral ceremonies with fire. The fire chief also stated that if the station knows after going to a call, then they can have word of mouth internally and inform the unit of the situation, and how to move appropriately.
- Another suggestion was to bring the fire station van instead of the fire truck so they do not disrupt anything. The commission stated that the fire department could also bring a offering if they need to investigate what is going on as an acknowledgement (food, tobacco, and condolences).
- The chief stated that there are religious exceptions written in the fire code for the state of Minnesota.
- Lisa Consie talked to the commission about helping the community with education on the Indigenous practices and awareness. Ideas included social media campaigns, emails from the fire department that are informational with a list of practices.
- Chair Sandman also brought up the history of Sage and how that can be input into any education put into the community

5. Election of Officers

- Chair: Moira Villiard **Motion passed: Gigit - All.**
- Vice Chair: Lenelle Hrabik **Motion passed: Gigit - All.**
- Secretary: Phoebe Davis **Motion passed: Gigit - All.**

6. Create and Approve 2023 Indigenous Commission Work Plan

- Chair Villiard stated that to come up with additional ideas for the year to bring to the February meeting. The following is the topics suggested:
 - Ojibwe Language Pronunciation Guide (have grant funds to spend on this)
 - Ni Mi Win documents display
 - Planning for Chief Buffalo sign unveiling

7. Next Meeting February 27, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm