

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Wednesday, April 17, 2024
411 W 1st St, Room 430, City Hall

Commissioners present: Moira Villiard, Phoebe Davis, Rene Ann Goodrich, Rebecca Graves

Commissioners absent: Ryan Clark, Amber Lightfeather, Lenelle Hrabik

Staff present: Suzanne Kelley, Hannah Figgins

Note: per the request of the Indigenous Commission members, Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes. Gegit is used to indicate that the Commission has come to a consensus in support of the motion.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Chair Villiard called the meeting to order at 5:43 PM, said the opening prayer, and introductions were made.

2. Approval of March 18, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

- March 18, 2024 minutes. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

3. Commissioner Goodrich asked for an amendment to the minutes be made in the COP Ceynowa's section. Staff confirmed the requested changes will be made.

4. Public Comment

5. City Reports and Updates

- **Board/Commission Liaison Updates**
 - Duluth Citizen Review Board/Police Racial Bias Audit – no speakers
 - Duluth Public Arts Commission – no speakers
- **Other Updates/Comments from City Councilors or City Staff**
 - Mayor Roger Reinert's State of the City Address is April 26th at 6pm, held at the Denfeld High School Auditorium
 - Commissioners expressed interest in the event, and added they would still like Mayor Reinert to attend a meeting.

6. New Business

• **June 12th Pow Wow Planning**

- Draft budget – Chair Villiard will follow-up with Ryan Clark (absent) to see the detailed budget he has drafted, and ask who he has been working with to organize the event. Commissioners have many questions regarding the budget and would like to see the write-up.
 - Commissioners discussed inviting local artists; also, inviting Fran White to be a part of the Veterans Honor Guard. Commissioners discussed the possibility of budgeting \$500 for two community members to help set up and take down, paying them \$250 each.
 - Chair Villiard will draft a letter, to bring to the next IC meeting, requesting sponsorship for the June Pow Wow. The Commission will discuss what organizations they will send the letter to, and potentially include their logos on the event flyer.

- Other costs discussed include documentation (photography, video), and printing signs and posters.
 - Staff will follow-up with City Finance to verify whether they will need any documentation before or after the event.
 - Youth Special – Commissioners are interested in this idea, and would like to see if the budget will allow for this. Commissioner Goodrich mentioned wanting to get a list of the 2024 graduating students, and reading off their names to honor them.
 - Commissioners requested files from past IC events for reference.
- **May MMIR events planning**
 - 4th Annual MMIR Annual Day of Awareness – on May 5th. The Mayor is invited and encouraged to come speak.
 - The MMIR Office is considering rescheduling to May 6th
 - City of Duluth will light Enger Tower red for the event.
- **Smudging at Bethel**
 - Commissioner Graves contacted leadership at Bethel, expressing the IC's support for Indigenous cultural and religious expression, but has not received a response.

7. Action Items

- None

8. Subcommittees

- **Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing** – Chair Villiard reported interest in summer tours of the Chief Buffalo Murals. She is meeting with the city Parks department to discuss scheduling conflicts.
- **Education** – no updates
- **Housing** – no updates
- **MMIWR** – Commissioner Goodrich spoke to the recent tragedy on April 12th that resulted in the loss of Fond du Lac member, Chantel Moose. This is an on-going investigation; the MMIR office has been in communication with DPD, and is providing outreach and support to the family of Chantel Moose. Updates are posted to the DPD facebook page.
 - Taylor Smith of Hinckley, MN The family heard from her, but she is still missing.
 - The search for Peter Michael Martin continues on the Fond du Lac reservation. This remains an on-going investigation; updates are posted on the FDL government page. They are requesting volunteers to support the search.
- **Ojibwe Language Pronunciation Guide and Signs in City Hall** – PACT TV sent Chair Villiard a file that should be easy for her to divide it into separate audio files.
- **Sobriety Feast** – Chair Villiard will be out of town during the next sobriety feast, but other commissioners are welcome to go. Commissioners expressed interest in asking the Sober Squad to host a Smudge Walk, sometime between now and MMIR National Day of Awareness.

9. Ongoing Business

- **Decolonization and Visibility Ideas** – no updates
- **City website to showcase Indigenous Commission projects and Ojibwe language** – no updates

10. Announcements

- No announcements

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm