

Duluth Indigenous Commission  
Monday, March 17, 2025  
411 W 1<sup>st</sup> St, Room 430 City Hall

**Commissioners present:** Phoebe Davis, Rene Ann Goodrich, Amber Lightfeather

**Commissioners absent:** Lenelle Hrabik

**Staff present:** Suzanne Kelley, Christian Huelsman, Dunkin Schwensohn- Engineering

**Guests:** Kathleen Spenser, Betty Greene, Brita Berglund

*Note: 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 Davis called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. Introductions were made.

### 2. Approval of January 27 Meeting Minutes

- January 27, 2025 minutes were approved with the additions and amendments made.  
Motion passed: Gegit - All.
- A revision was made to the October 7, 2024 minutes:
  - The Twin Ports movement for MMIWR has encountered challenges to obtain funding for affected families. The Native Lives Matter coalition has launched an initiative for a mutual aid fund MMWIR families with the funding gap.

### 3. Public Comment

- Discussion of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Duluth. The Commission talked about inviting Duluth Police Chief to a meeting to discuss ICE. Some of these concerns will be talked about at the next Citizen Review Board meeting.
- Discussion about increasing awareness of the Metis people from Canada.
  - At the next annual meeting, there could be an opportunity to review and update the bylaws to include Metis

### 4. Boards and Commission

- DPAC- Tabled to the next meeting.
- Bardons' Peak Interpretive Marker-
  - City Engineer Duncan Schwensohn presented the process and provided a draft language.
  - Duncan said artwork or pictures would be appreciated
  - Information should be presented into Ojibwe
  - Rene Ann would like to review the language and possibility make adjustments, discuss this with the Elders, will look into possible artwork
  - Duncan asked if he could attend the April 21 meeting for input, they said yes

### 5. New Business

- Fire Permits for Ceremonies around the City of Duluth

- Discussion regarding permits for fires. This included:
  - Native Lives Coalition provides insurance to allow for annual Fire Permits.
  - Fully Moon Ceremonies- work with One Roof and AICHO
  - Annual MMIWR on February 14, is at Building for Women
  - National Day of Awareness on May 5- PAVSA
  - Sobriety Feast- possible Ryan Clark could help, Phoebe will work with Kathleen Spencer
- Round Dance
  - Discussed having a round dance rather than a POW WOW.
  - Possible partnership with Denfeld. Amber will follow up.
- MMIWR
  - Work with Natives Lives Matter Collation
  - Rene Ann is working with City of Duluth for a Proclamation and lighting the Enger Tower.
  - The February 14 event was the largest turn out. Had support from the City of Duluth and the City of Superior.
  - Additional fundraising events
  - Waiting for the State MMIWR Office to offer rewards for the missing
  - Essentia has expressed interest in partnering with MMIWR
- Education
  - Commission was invited to tour the facilities, and commission members directed City Staff to coordinate.
  - Concerns about school district budget and transparency.
  - Commission members would like to know more about the budget. Amber referenced a Duluth News Tribune article about the situation. This article is attached to the minutes.
  - There are concerns about the turnover of staff and having to constantly building relationships and help new employees