

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, June 16, 2025
411 W 1st St, Room 430 City Hall

Commissioners present: Phoebe Davis, Rene Ann Goodrich, Natalie Smith

Commissioners absent: Lenelle Hrabik

Staff present: Kathy Wilson, Hannah Figgins, Marsha Lue – Human Rights and Equity Officer

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 5:44 PM. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of April 21 Meeting Minutes

- April 21, 2025 minutes were approved.
Motion passed: Gegit - All.

3. Public Comment

- none

4. City Reports and Updates

- Board/Commission Liaison Updates
 - Duluth Public Arts Commission – collaboration with DPAC will be pursued for a PowWow once the IC gains more Commissioners and has more capacity.
- Other Updates/Comments from City Councilors or city staff
 - None

5. New Business

- Park Point MMIWR 'river of red' dress display group (Lisa McKhann)
 - Lisa introduced the project and comes to the IC with a request for further guidance and input for how to support the broader efforts. The Park Point project received donations from Goodwill, and some from local drycleaners. Had households all down park point participating, hanging red dresses and shirts in their yard. They want to make sure their efforts are contributing to the broader effort. Trying to avoid virtue signaling, and would like to know what would be meaningful
 - Primarily homeowners participated in the red dress display, and so hoping to create relationships with businesses or hotels that are on that road so they may participate in coming years.
 - In future years they may include a yard sign to hang with the dresses that includes a QR code to a website that describes the purpose of the event and importance of raising awareness of MMIWR and what can be done to contribute to the cause. One QR code that goes to a LinkTree with multiple resources.
 - The vision is to expand the dress display from City Hall down to Park Point.

6. Action Items

- Ojibwe Language Pronunciation Guide and Signs in City Hall (Goodrich, DPAC)
 - DPAC a couple years ago granted IC funds for a public art project. IC also received Community Foundation funds, which they used to record the words.
 - The recording exists but needs to be broken in to different words.
 - The quote for the Ojibwe language signs allows for more signs in other buildings. There is a meeting tomorrow with a City Director to determine who needs to approve the installation of language signs. The funds have transferred to the IC account for this project. We have the words, the recording, and a quote for the all the desired signs.

7. Ongoing Business

- None

8. Subcommittees

- Education (Lightfeather) – no updates
- Full Moon Ceremonies (Davis) – Natalie Smith, the new Commission works at AICHO and used to help run the ceremonies. There may be an opportunity to host the Ceremony at AICHO.
 - Commissioner Smith hosts a Women’s Talking Circle at AICHO on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 4:30-5:30pm.
- Housing (Hrabik) – no updates
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR) (Goodrich) – Commissioner Goodrich updated some cases
 - Shiela St Claire’s case continues
 - Conviction has been made in the Chantel Moose case
 - The MN MMIR Office was in town to show support during the murder trial
- Sobriety Feast (Clark) – Commissioner Smith volunteered to help with this going forward, as she has helped organize it in the past.

9. Announcements

- Juneteenth: June 19, 2025 3pm – 7pm Hillside Community Center
- ISD 709 reports to the Human Rights Commission on student retention, disciplinary actions, and other student related news. August 13, 2025. 5:30. Second Wednesday of the month.

10. Next Meeting: Summer Break in July, no meeting. Next meeting August 18, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm