

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, May 16, 2016

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney, Amber Stewart, Victor St. George, Hannah Smith, Kassie Helgerson

Absent: Donna Newgren, Tina Olson

Staff: Adam Fulton, Suzanne Kelley, Kathy Wilson

Note: Per the request of the DIC members two Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes – bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion.

1. Call to Order, Introduction

- Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:34pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of April meeting minutes

- St. George bezhig/Helgerson niizho to approve the April 18, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion passed 6:0.

3. Public Comment

- League of Women Voters asked for Commissioners opinions on activism regarding the tall ships coming to Duluth in August. The League of Women Voters is interested in addressing the historical trauma of tall ships with educational tabling at the event. The Commissioners appreciate the work the League is doing and their efforts to bring awareness. Commissioners were generally in support of some kind of historical education materials at the tall ships event but wanted the League to do more research about how the historical context of tall ships in Duluth. Smith suggested the League coordinate with the Minnesota Historical Society and the American Indian Studies Department at UMD for research and tabling. Sandman suggested that the League research if other Indigenous communities have organized any education or activism at tall ship events around the country.

4. New Business

- Mary Faulkner, Sam Madsen, and a Police Dept. representative presented on the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI). The program attempts to provide closure for victims whose kits may not have been tested for years. Commissioners were generally supportive of the initiative but wanted to make sure that victims were not being re-traumatized for no reason.
- Kelley gave an overview of the existing bylaws. Commissioners agreed to review the bylaws before the next meeting and come back with suggestions for updates.
- Councilors who presented at the City Council Committee of the Whole provided their thoughts about the event.
 - Sandman was pleased with the Councilors support of Indigenous Commission initiatives and is excited to work with them moving forward. She stated Councilors Sipress, Hanson, and Anderson as particularly supportive of the Indigenous Commission.
 - Smith thought it went well, but we disappointed that Councilors did not make firm commitments, specifically in regards to funding the Ni Mi Win Pow Wow.
 - St. George felt very supported by the Council during the presentation.
 - Stewart was happy the Council was receptive to the Indigenous Commission’s ideas.

5. Old Business

- The Commission read and discussed the Resolution of support for Gitch O'de Akiing from Fond du Lac. Smith bezhig/Helgerson niizho to send a Resolution of their own along with the Fond du Lac Resolution to the Mayor and City Council. Motion passed 6:0.
- Commissioners discussed potential locations for the Sobriety Feast. The Central Hillside Community Center was suggested and Commissioners agreed to follow up.

6. Announcements and Comments from the Commission

- Judy Gibbs discussed Chambers Grove park signs project and interpretive signs for Hartley Park. She invited the Indigenous Commission to be involved in helping add Ojibwe language to the new signs.

7. Adjournment:

Stewart bezhig/ Helgerson niizho to adjourn meeting – motion passed 6:0.
The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

8. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is July 18, 2016 at 5:30 PM.