

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, August 15, 2016

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Carol DeVerney, Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Hannah Smith, Victor St. George, Tina Olson, Amber Lee Lightfeather

Absent: Babette Sandman, Kassie Helgerson

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

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

2. Approval of April meeting minutes

- DeVerney bezhig/Newgren-Isaacson niizho to approve the July 18, 2016 meeting minutes.
Motion passed 6:0.

3. Public Comment

- Dawn, the new Director of Research Data and Policy for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe introduced herself to the Commissioners. She is based in Duluth with her office in the American Indian Community Housing Organization building on 2nd St.

4. New Business

- Feat and Forum Planning: Commissioners agreed to work on individual planning tasks for the Feast & Forum outside of Commission meetings. Olson agreed to reach out to Jim Amell inviting him to present the Strength Based Community Assessment results at this year’s Feast and Forum.
- Indigenous Peoples’ Day Planning: Commissioners asked staff to provide a copy of last year’s Mayoral Proclamation for Indigenous Peoples’ Day and contact information for ISD 709 schools. Commissioners will review last year’s proclamation and make changes at the next meeting. Newgren-Isaacson suggested going into the schools before Indigenous Peoples’ Day (October 10, 2016) to tell the story.
- Comprehensive Plan Presentation: Kelley presented on the City’s Comprehensive Plan update, Imagine Duluth 2035. She gave an overview of the Comp Plan update process and the guiding principles. Kelley provided Commissioners with copies of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan to review. Commissioners can share their ideas about the new Comp Plan update to DeVerney, who is on the Vision Committee for Imagine Duluth 2035.

5. Old Business

- Gitchi O’de Akiing Updates: The Ethnographic Study and Gitchi O’de continue to get interest from the community. Commissioners looked at an article published in *Indian Country Today* about how the Commission is using and plans to use the Ethnographic Study.
<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/08/04/were-still-here-reconnecting-and-renewing-native-heritage-duluth-165339>
- Interpretive Sign Projects Updates: Commissioners discussed the status of a Resolution they want to go to Council regarding the Commission acting as a Cultural Liaison for Ojibwe language signs. Commissioners discussed formalizing their own internal protocol for acting as a Cultural Liaison by adding language to their bylaws or crating a separate guiding document.

- Sobriety Feast Updates: DeVerney gave a recap of the second Sobriety Feast. She said about 40 people attended.
- Ni Mi Win Pow Wow Updates: Lightfeather gave a brief update that Pow Wow organizers are meeting regularly and continue to make progress.

6. Adjournment:

St. George bezhig/DeVerney niizho to adjourn meeting. **Motion passed 6:0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

7. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is October 17, 2016 at 5:30 PM.