

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION – ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, May 11, 2017

UMD Campus, SMED Building Room 165, 5:30 PM

Present: Carol DeVerney, Kassie Helgerson, Amber Lightfeather, Mary Owen, Babette Sandman, Adam Fulton—Duluth City Staff

Absent: Laurence Heady, Tina Olson, Donna Newgren-Isaacson

Discussion:

1. Adam Fulton advised DIC that former member, Hannah Smith has resigned.
2. The DIC members requested that Adam Fulton investigate: a) Is there an age limit to join the city council or any commissions? b) Can the DIC fundraise? c) Can there be representation by a particular community on the Duluth Council? Eg., Seattle City Council has a seat reserved for a member representative of the homeless population.
3. Babette Sandman began meeting with a request for DIC input on community concerns to address in the next 18 months or through the remaining months of a two year term. Concerns cited include opioid addiction, low presence and subsequently awareness of Ojibwe/Native people in Duluth, low graduation rate of our Native students, constant attacks on the environment, particularly water, current federal administration's effects on the Native community locally, regionally, and nationally. From this discussion came the following subcommittee structure and work plan for 2017-2018:

<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Champions</u>	<u>Ideas</u>
PowWow	Kassie,	reinvigorate planning committee from last year with emphasis on democratic/committee process---avoid one leader or patriarchal leadership in planning, involve Heritage commission to get more support
Presence	Evie, Amber	parade? Gitchi O'de park
Leadership	Babette	leadership training for Native people in our community
Education	Amber, Mary	develop resolution citing recent examples of administration/teacher/community

<u>Subcommittee</u>	<u>Champions</u>	<u>Ideas</u>
Education	Amber, Mary	misunderstanding of Native students and families and need to improve HS grad. rates
Opioids	Carol	work with police to help families coping with addicted loved ones, celebrate successes

Non Committee, but on-going work for entire DIC:

1. Protecting the water
2. Addressing effects of current administration on Native community

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Af/mjo
5/16/17