

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
Monday, January 22, 2018
City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Phoebe Davis, Melissa Deverney, Bob Miller, Larry Heady, Mary Owen
Absent: Kassie Helgerson, Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Amber Lightfeather, Carol DeVerney

Staff: 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 5:42 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Davis bezhig/Owen niizho to approve the December 17, 2017 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 6:0**

3. Public Comment

- Cruz Mendoza updated the Commission on work the Human Rights Office is doing regarding women and minorities being hired for the Superior St construction project and a workforce center grant for a training and apprentice program.

4. New Business

- Gitchi O’de – Commission discussed physical boundaries of park and talked about planning a Special Meeting to conduct a site visit and walk. City staff are working to coordinate with a potential consultant for a park project proposal.
- Opioid Teach-In – Owen discussed organizing a teach-in at UMD.

5. Action Items

- Owen bezhig/Davis niizho to add two Action Items to the agenda – “Resolution on Education” and “Riot Gear”. **Motion passed 6:0**
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution– Heady mentioned needing to be thoughtful about how consultations would work because they do not want to send a message that they are trying to slow down the process, they just want to protect the Ancestors.
- Sweat Lodges Permit – A funding grant from Peace Church, with CHUM as fiscal agent, will help pay for the Lodges and the Sobriety Feast. Planning a ground breaking/site blessing event now that they have the liability insurance worked out.
- Why Treaties Matter- exhibit is going forward in City Hall in the beginning of February. City staff are coordinating final detail so MIAC can make a flyer for the event.
- Eagle Staff Resolution- example from the State of Illinois, Heady to draft a Duluth specific Resolution
- Resolution on Education- Owen bezhig/Heady niizho that the Indigenous Commission supports the proposed School Board Resolution regarding the Compensatory Education Funds **Motion passed 6:0** See attached resolution

- Riot Gear- Skip Sandman and President of the NAACP, Stephan Witherspoon, met with Police Chief Tusken to discuss the budget for riot gear. S. Sandman reported that Chief Tusken said a city our size should have riot gear and what we have now is old. The Standing Rock video (as some community members had speculated) has nothing to do with the timing of getting new gear, the new gear had been proposed years ago and they finally got money in the budget to purchase it now.

6. Old Business

- Ojibwe Language Signs Update- In process. See Bemidji video: <https://youtu.be/i0US43hxags> (the story about the Bemidji signs project starts at 7:40)
- Sobriety Feast – Going well, as mentioned under Sweat Lodges item, some funding has been secured to operate the Feast for 2018.
- Subcommittees
 - Education – ongoing efforts with Compensatory Edu Fund and Education Equity Alliance
 - Police- no updates
 - Ni Mi Win – City staff will coordinate with the HPC to find opportunities for grant funding to preserve and display the old Ni Mi Win materials. Staff will work with Helgerson to start inventorying the memorabilia from the old Pow Wow.
 - Opioids – No updates.
- Duluth Public Arts Commission (DPAC) – members will be attending the next DIC meeting to talk

7. Announcements/Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

8. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is February 26, 2018 at 5:30 PM.



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DISTRIBUTING COMPENSATORY EDUCATION FUNDS

WHEREAS only 37% of Native American high school students graduate annually in ISD 709;

WHEREAS ISD 709 has reallocated 50% of compensatory funding away from students and schools that generate the monies;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IS RESOLVED that the Duluth indigenous Commission supports a resolution that each of the 13 traditional school sites will receive at least 80% of the compensatory education revenue generated by the students at each site including ALC students attending the traditional school sites.

Certification

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, 0 silent, with a quorum of 6 being present at a regular meeting of the Duluth Indigenous Commission held on January 22, 2018.