

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
Monday, September 17, 2018
City Hall, Room 332

Present: Babette Sandman, Mary Owen, Larry Heady, Phoebe Davis, Amber Lightfeather, Bob Miller, Carol DeVerney

Absent: Donna Newgren-Isaacson, Melissa Deverney, Kassie Helgerson, Millie Richard

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 5:34 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Miller bezhig/Owen niizho to approve the August 20, 2018 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 7:0**

3. Public Comment

- On October 13 there will be a Soles to the Poll information about voting at Denfeld High School.
- The weekly fire gathering on Tuesday nights at the Minnesota Power Plaza are a place where people can meet peacefully and safely. Work is still being done for the Homeless Bill of Rights. Advocates would like to pursue funding for warming stations.

4. New Business

- Indigenous Peoples Week planning and Feast and Forum-
 - The Proclamation of Indigenous Peoples Day by the City will be on October 8, 2018 at City Hall at noon.
 - The Feast and Forum will be on October 11 at Powless Hall.
 - It will be important to have speakers at these events. Rick Smith can talk about Indigenous history and Indigenous Peoples Day.
 - Ricky Defoe can talk about decolonization at the Feast and Forum.
 - Updates about Gitchi O’de Akiing can be given at the Feast and Forum.
 - Chief Buffalo will also be honored at the Feast and Forum.

5. Action Items

- Protocol for Commission to Address Important Community Happenings: Owen is working on this process.
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution- no update
- Eagle Staff Resolution- Babette is talking to City Councilors on the format for presenting the Eagle Staff. The Protocols for handling the Eagle Staff and the Presentation of the Eagle Staff were discussed and need to be finalized.
- Ojibwe Language Signs- Owen bezhig/Davis niizho to approve the Duluth’s Ojibwe Language Project Flyer. **Motion passed 7:0.** The flyer will be prepared to be handed out.

6. Subcommittees

- Education – Owen updated the Commission that the school board was going to go forward with the levies, despite the concerns expressed by the Commission. There are also concerns in the community and by other groups about the disciplinary statistics of the school district.
- Police – Sandman met with SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) and other community groups about Use of Force Training session by the FBI. The FBI training had been postponed due to the community groups concern about invitation process and transparency.
- Ni Mi Win – discussed funding options.
- Opioids/Natives Against Heroin (NAH)/Sweat Lodge/Sobriety Feast- These efforts are effective, however there have been some leadership issues. Sandman is working on these efforts.

7. Old Business

- Collaboration with Duluth Public Arts Commission- New artwork by Native Artists are being displayed in the entry area to City Hall. The Mayor's Reception room replaced the previous artwork with new artwork by local artists displaying horses.
- Onigamiinsing naming- in progress

8. Announcements/Adjournment:

- Lester Park Rendezvous- Davis and Alicia Cyr met with organizers to insure Indigenous Culture will be accurately displayed for future events. The organizers removed the inaccurate and false depictions for this year's event.
- Native Veterans- a Memorial will be built in Washington DC and will be dedicated in 2020 on Memorial Day. Spread the word

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm

9. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is October 15, 2018 at 5:30 PM.