

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, November 15, 2021
Virtual WebEx Meeting

Commissioners present: Babette Sandman, Lenelle Hrabik, Kassie Helgerson, Moira Villiard, Phoebe Davis, Roxanne DeLille

Commissioners absent: Carol Deverney, Rochelle Goodrich, Amber Lightfeather, Cayla Bellanger DeGroat

Staff present: Suzanne Kelley, Kathy Wilson

Note: per the request of the Indigenous Commission members, Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes. Bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion. Gegit is used to indicate that the motion passed with majority support.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Co-chair Sandman called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM, introductions were made.

2. Approval of October 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Davis bezhig / Helgerson niizho to approve the October 18, 2021.
- Gegit -All.

3. Public Comment

- Rene Ann Goodrich invited commissioners to the American Indian Heritage Month Building Bridges - Honoring Resilient Communities being held on November 27, 2021 in Superior, Wisconsin. This event to recognize Missing and Murdered Women, Girls and 2 Spirit individuals. The Mayors of Duluth and Superior will both issue Proclamations. Rene Ann asked if the Indigenous Commission endorse the event.
- Helgerson bezhig/Davis niizho to support the event and appoint Babette to assist with endorsement. Gegit-All.

4. City Reports and Updates

- City Attorney Rebecca St. George discussed bylaws revision. She requested City Staff to provide a red-line version showing the bylaw changes. City Staff stated they would send the red-line version.
- Melissa La Tour from the Public Arts Commission stated they look forward to working with the Indigenous Commission. A possible project is signage

5. New Business

- Native American Heritage Month ideas- Helgerson will work with drum groups to present an event at Gichi-ode’ Akiing.
- Committee of the Whole- The Indigenous Commission will hold a Committee of the Whole with City Council in 2022, discussion items could include Chief Buffalo Mural, Sobriety Feast, Indigenous People’s Day.

6. Action Items

- Bylaws- was discussed during City Updates
- Duluth Ojibwe Language Project- working with the Public Arts Commission

7. Subcommittees

- **AIM/Opioids/Sweat Lodge/Sobriety Feast**
 - Sweat Lodge events are well attended and doing well
 - AIM is focusing on purchasing a radar that can look for remains of bodies; this radar will be used at old boarding schools. The focus is to look for children who are missing.
- **Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing**
 - Moira and the artist team will be finishing the mural in the spring. Zeitgeist will be helping with signage.
 - Moira is working with the Parks Commission on gateway signage.
- **Bylaws-** was discussed during the meeting.
- **Education-** no updates
- **Police/Racial Bias Audit Task Force-** Roxanne will connect with Blair Powless and check to see if Rick DeFoe will participate.
- **Sacred Sites-**City Staff will check with Councilor Gary Anderson on the status
- **Spirit Mountain-**Kassie is making connections with Marlene Diver

8. Old Business

- **Decolonization and Visibility Ideas**
 - Anton Treuer will be holding events this winter to increase visibility and awareness.

9. Next Meeting December 20, 2021

- Lenelle will provide a presentation about Section 8 vouchers and working with landlords and renters. She asked Commission members to send her questions that they would like address in the presentation.