

Duluth Indigenous Commission
Monday, September 18, 2023
411 W 1st St, Room 430, City Hall

Commissioners present: Lenelle Hrabik, Amber Lightfeather, Rene Ann Goodrich, Phoebe Davis,

Commissioner interim: Rebecca Graves

Commissioners absent: Moira Villiard, Max Bowman

Staff present: Suzanne Kelley, Kelli Latuska, Public Information Officer

Note: per the request of the Indigenous Commission members, Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes. Gegit is used to indicate that the Commission has come to a consensus in support of the motion.

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Commissioner Hrabik called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM, introductions were made.

2. Approval of August 21, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- August 21, 2023 minutes were approved as corrected, specially correcting the name for Sheila St. Clair. **Motion passed: Gegit - All.**

3. Public Comment

- Cristin Curwick from the Minnesota Environmental Partnership invited the Commission to attend the Cumulative Impacts of Pollution Community Reception on September 21, 2023.

4. City Reports and Updates

- Kelli Latuska, Duluth Public Information Officer, introduced herself and explain how she could assist in promoting Indigenous Commission events and information using the City's social media such as Facebook and Nextdoor. She stated that she would need at least one week's notice and information would need to be conveyed through City Staff.

5. New Business

- Discussion on how the Indigenous Commission meeting can be used as a place for people in the community talk about issues they are facing.

6. Action Items

- **Full Moon Ceremony** – the sponsorship letter will be ready to be sent out.
- **Indigenous People's Day** – Monday October 9th
 - The Commission agreed that October 9th at City Hall would be the best location for the event. City Staff said due to Indigenous People's Day being a recognized holiday, they would see what would be needed to accommodate the event. City Staff will all connect with the Mayor's Office to see when the Mayor will be available.
 - Chair Villiard sent an email stating Sam Zimmerman would be willing to do an image for poster design.

- Commissioners discussed the invite list, including having Elders and the youth attend. Commissioners also discussed who could present at the event. They would like this to be a vibrant event and focus on resiliency.
- Commissioners also thought this event would be an opportunity to invite people to attend the pavilion re-naming ceremony on October 17 in honor of Councilor Renee Van Nett.
- **Feast and Forum-** Commissioners will plan for this event at future meetings.

7. Subcommittees

- **Art in Gichi-ode' Akiing** – Chair Villiard's email stated she received approval for Chief Buffalo fiscal sponsorship's as a non-profit. And she is working on signage.
- **Education-** There is a staff shortage at Duluth's American Indian Education.
- **Housing-** no update
- **Ojibwe Language Pronunciation Guide and Signs in City Hall-** Jancie Fairbanks and Ricky Defoe are both interested in being recorded, just need to finalize words. Lenelle and Max went through City Hall for sign locations. City Staff will be sending the map to them.
- **Sobriety Feast** – continues to be a well-attended monthly event

8. Ongoing Business

- **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) – The** Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund program is now being run by that State. Goodrich is on the board, the first meeting will be on October 1. .
- **Minnesota Chippewa Tribe (MCT) Constitution Updates**
No updated
- **New Member Recruitment**
- **Decolonization and Visibility ideas**

9. Announcements

No new announcements

Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 pm