

**DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, November 18, 2013**

Present: Terry Goodsky, Tina Olson, Babette Sandman, Carol DeVerney,

Absent: Ricky DeFoe, Jaron Smallwood

Staff: Suzanne Kelley, Michael Palermo

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:28 PM.
- Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda and the October 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- Goodsky made a motion to approve the Minutes. DeVerney seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.
- Goodsky made a motion to move the Native Alliance Update on the agenda from Old Business to Updates. DeVerney seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Updates

- A. Police- Leigh Wright presented the police update. She discussed possible changes to the police hiring procedure which would incorporate more diversity on the force. The procedures would include the police academy becoming accredited which allows the force to have more flexibility on recruiting new officers rather than relying on a state test. Wright also made an announcement about the Lincoln Park Comm-U-N-Ity Compstat event being held at Clyde Iron Works from 5-6:30 on Tuesday November 19, 2013. Wright also discussed the Citizen Police Academy which will be offering opportunities for everyone to learn more about the police and procedures. Participants meet monthly and learn about different aspects of police work. It was asked if the Citizen Review Board participates and Renee VanNett explained that they do not participate directly with the Citizen Police Academy but do host discussions with the police chief and other officials about cultural differences.
- B. Staff Report- Palermo explained to the commission that the Ethnographic Study Application to the Minnesota Legacy Fund was in its final review. Ben VanTassel from the Community Development Division and Bruce White went on behalf of the commission to answer any questions to the Minnesota Historical Society Review Committee. The Historical Society will make their final recommendations for funding during their December meeting. Palermo also explained that the final report for the planning grant for the Ethnographic Study was submitted.

Palermo also discussed the Commission's by-laws and name change from Duluth American Indian Commission to the Duluth Indigenous Commission. He explained that there is a 30 day notice period after City Council approval for various entities to be informed before the name change becomes official. The Ordinance was approved on October 28th so the name change will be official on November 28th. A member of the audience asked about the name change and if more education on it was planned. The commission discussed possibly doing a short memo to the public about why the Commission decided to change the name. Carol DeVerney expressed concerns of changing the name. She explained that while indigenous is politically sensitive today, in the future it may not be. Olsen agreed but felt that if that occurred the commission could rename the commission again.

- C. Native Alliance – Renee VanNett gave an update on the various programs that the Native Alliance is conducting. The organization is currently working with a lawyer and accountant on completing paper for incorporating as a non-profit organization. They have conducted several outreach forums at various locations. They conducted a needs assessment forum and identified culturally specific activities, housing, women’s support, and youth support as needs in the Indigenous Community. The Native Alliance will use that information to tailor programs to engage the community. They also announced an event to celebrate Indigenous Month at the Hillside Community Center from 2 pm to 7 pm on November 23, 2013. Olsen made a comment about how she is not very supportive of events to celebrate Indigenous Month because she believes that the culture should be celebrated year round. She explained that she is not Indigenous only one month a year but all the time. An audience member asked if the meetings about incorporating as a non-profit were open to the public and asked for clarification as to what status they were applying for. It was explained that the meetings are open however at this time there isn’t a sufficient way to publicize meetings. If people were interested in attending they can contact Renee VanNett directly so she can inform them when meetings will happen or they can check their Facebook page. The Native Alliance is still deciding which tax status to be filed under.

4. Public Comment

- A. Gail Schoenfeldt from The League of Women Voters (LWV) came to invite the Commission to the District 2 St. Louis County Commissioner Candidate Forum. Gail gave a brief explanation about what the LWV does. The main reason they attended the meeting was to solicit questions to ask the commissioner candidates during the forum that might be pertinent to the Indigenous community.

5. New Business

- A. Kelley brought to the Commission’s attention that next month they will be preparing the 2014 work plan. She distributed the current work plan as an example of what they will be working on. She asked them to examine this year’s work plan and decide what they can improve on and what projects they would like to continue working on. Kelley read out the Commission’s recently adopted Mission Statement to help give guidance and as an example of what they accomplished this year. The retreat date was set for December 16th from noon to 5 pm. The location of the retreat was also discussed and staff will look into finding meeting space outside City Hall.

6. Old Business

- A. Feast and Forum Update- Goodsky updated the Commission on the Feast and Forum planning. He explained that they missed the grant application deadline by a week because they were unable to vote due to lack of quorum. He suggested that the commission host the Feast and Forum in March and that this could be a nice introduction for new members. DeVerney motioned to the host the Feast and Forum in March, Olsen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Spirit Mountain Update- None. DeVerney asked at what point should items be removed from the agenda because are no longer being updated on. Sandman said that they should wait till new members join the committee before making decisions because they may want to take lead on the subcommittees.

7. Announcements

- Olsen made an announcement about a play at Trepanier Hall at 3 pm on November 24. The play will be conducted by youth actors about youth trafficking. All proceeds will go to support the Sacred Hoop.

8. Next Meeting

- **Adjournment:** Motion by Olsen; seconded by Goodsky to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM.