

## DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, January 23, 2012 – 5:15 p.m.

Room 303, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor City Hall

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Present:** Priscilla Fairbanks, Babette Sandman, Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, Donna Bergstrom, Ricky DeFoe.

**Absent:** Ron Hagland, Donna Bluebird.

**Staff:** Charles Froseth, Karen Olesen.

**Others:** Maggie Fink, Veronica Nelson, Skip Sandman, Janelle Burton, Michelle LeBeau, Gabriel Peltier.

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Introductions: Co-Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m., and asked those present to introduce themselves. Staff asked to combine two items on the agenda, Review of Staff Role and Review DAIC “Job Description”.

**Moved by Donna Bergstrom, second by Terry Goodsky, to approve the agenda combining agenda items 5. and 7. Motion passed unanimously.**

Review and Approval of Meeting Summary from November 21, 2011:

**Moved by Terry Goodsky, second by Babette Sandman, to approve the November 21, 2011 minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Update from Dismantling Racism Team: Maggie Fink, from the Dismantling Racism Team, provided an update on the planned feast and talking circle event to be held at Peace Church on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. She stated this will be an opportunity for people from all communities to come together and participate in building relationships. Everyone is invited to attend. Ms. Fink clarified that Rev. Kevin Annett has been invited and it is hoped he will participate in the talking circle. A video showing and talk by Rev. Annett will be held the next evening, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Update from AICHO on Gimaajii Housing Project: Janelle Burton and Michelle LeBeau gave a progress report on AICHO’s Gimaajii project. Ms. Burton was recently hired to work with tenants and to bring services to the building. Previously, she worked at Bois Forte on ending homelessness. In response to questions, Burton stated originally tenants were to occupy apartments in January, now the plan is mid-to late-February, due to a delays in having the elevator operational. 148 applications have been received since October of last year, and are still being taken. Tenant selection is based on the order of the applications, matching families to requirements of specific units such as Fond du Lac enrollees for those subsidized units, household size, if the families are currently homeless, other eligibility requirements. DW Jones is the property manager. Janelle has worked with DW Jones to ensure tenant selection is fair and doesn’t present undue barriers to housing access. Written appeals can be brought to AICHO, which makes final decisions. Terry Smith stated he understood a DAIC member would also serve on the AICHO board. This position had been filled by Antonia Dickenson, who is no longer on the DAIC. Burton thought this was a great idea. Ricky Defoe asked if Natives had worked on the construction? Michelle LeBeau said no, but encouraged participation in the community forum. Burton is planning an “informal” open house for community members in the next few weeks, before the

“formal” celebration. Donna Bergstrom had received AICHO’s bylaws and Board list, copies were provided to Commissioners.

Veronica Nelson, Spirit Mountain Board member, was present and the Commission asked to hear from her. Ms. Nelson had brought a handout mapping the current recreation area and planned expansion. Major elements are the extension of existing ski runs, a new chalet on Grand Avenue, and a pipeline to bring water from the Lake to use for snowmaking. New building is to occur below the existing site. Nelson is leading the American Indian/Environmental Committee of the Spirit Mountain Board. She hopes by encouraging educational opportunities and bringing a cultural element (including funding) areas are more likely to be conserved. Nelson will provide Donna Bergstrom with the most recent Master Plan; Board notices and minutes; and given the interest in DAIC members to participate, is scheduling a Sub-Committee meeting for the second Monday of the month, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m., and will reserve a meeting room at Spirit Mountain.

Meeting Schedule and Work Plan for 2012: Chuck Froseth presented a draft work plan. Staff pulled it together based on previous work plans and input from the retreat. The draft calls for quarterly forums from the community on issues of concern. Commissioners would like to have community input related to the topics being discussed that evening. Staff will revise the work plan to incorporate this idea, and bring it back to the next meeting. A major work plan item is the annual feast and forum. There was discussion on securing funding and the potential of a non-profit “sponsor” to receive grant funds.

Develop Mission Statement: Co-Chair Smith brought this forward to ensure action on this item. A sub-committee formed to draft a statement for review in February. Interested persons include Ricky Defoe and Gabriel Peltier. All interested Commissioners can meet on February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 4:30, prior to the DAIC meeting. Smith asked each Commissioner to think about this in advance and bring their ideas.

Nominations for Officer Election in February: In preparation for the election of officers at the next meeting, it was decided to ask for nominations for Co-Chairs and Secretary. Ricky Defoe, Terry Smith and Donna Bergstrom were nominated for Co-Chairs. Donna Bergstrom was nominated for Secretary.

**Moved by Babette Sandman, second by Ricky Defoe, to close nominations. Passed unanimously.**

Review of CD Staff Role and DAIC “Job Description”: Chuck Froseth distributed a handout with a draft of the roles and responsibilities of City staff, and duties and expectations of Commissioners, again based on the bylaws and comments from the retreat. He stated this was a starting point, to clarify staff support that will be provided and give current and future DAIC members an understanding of the time commitment and tasks they may be called onto do.

Adjournment:

**Moved by Ricky Defoe, second by Priscilla Fairbanks, to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.**

Next Meeting: February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012\*, Room 303, starting at 5:00 p.m. The Mission Statement Sub-committee will meet at 4:30, same location.

*\*Meeting Date changed to February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*