

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, May 21, 2012 – 5:15 p.m.

Room 303, 3rd Floor City Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, Ron Hagland, Priscilla Fairbanks, Donna Bergstrom, Babette Sandman, and Carol DeVerney

Absent: Ricky DeFoe, Tina Olson, and Larry Monchamp

Staff: Suzanne Kelley

- 1. Approval of Agenda and March Meeting 19 Meeting Summary:** Donna Bergstrom made the motion to approve the meeting summary, Babette Sandman seconded the motion; the Commission unanimously approved the minutes.

Donna Bergstrom made the motion to approve the agenda, Terry Goodsky seconded the motion; the agenda was a unanimously approved.

2. Speakers:

- a. Ron Lake, ISD 709 Climate Coordinator explained his position with the school district. His position focuses on coordinating efforts to reduce school bullying in the different schools within the district. He explained how different schools have individualized techniques to deal with bullying. He also explained how important it is for children to see pictures on the school walls showing their cultural heritages in a positive manner. He talked about proactive approaches dealing with bullying and how the efforts are being evaluated by students, staff, parents, and principals. He discussed the bully free campaign, which is being initiated by the DAIC.

The DAIC members appreciated hearing about these efforts. They also commented how important it to have more teachers and administrators be of Native American descent. They also would like to see increased education about Native American culture and history in the schools.

- b. Susan Mulholland, Adjunct Assistant Professor with University of Minnesota Duluth, explained her proposal for an archaeological survey on a part of Sprit Mountain. She was requesting a letter of support from the DAIC. Specifically the project would be a survey of the undeveloped portion of Sprit Mountain to identify and map locations that might indicate usages and areas for potential archaeological sites. Currently there are no archaeological sites on record, however arrowheads and other items of significance importance have been found. Sprit Mountain has been known as an important spiritual area, and may have been an area for fasting and may have contained a sweat lodge.

Babette Sandman made the motion to provide a letter of support, Carol DeVerney seconded the motion. The letter of support was unanimously approved.

- c. Susan Muholland also informed the DAIC about another project she was working on, the mapping of the Cloquet River Valley. This mapping will show the boundary of the lakes prior to the reservoirs. She will provide an update at a future meeting.
 - d. Lt. Wright, of the Duluth Police Force informed the DAIC that the police force had new recruits. They may be hiring this fall. Her office is located at City Center West, West Duluth. She recently went to FBI training. She also mentioned how the police department had an advocate contact the family of the recent Native American homicide victim and is trying to build relationships with the Native American population.
3. City Council Action: Citizen Review Board 12-030-0. Members talked about coordinating efforts to attend either the Committee of the Whole and/or the Public Hearing.
4. Terry Smith made a motion for the DAIC to approve a community rights statement. Donna Bergstrom seconded the motion. The motion was, "It has been requested that the mayor, the city council and the school board be asked to step forward and ask businesses, neighborhoods and community members how they will partner with schools and what they are willing to do to promote academic achievement, equity and excellence for our children and our future."

At this time, a number of members left so there was no quorum.

5. Old Business

- a. Review and approve Mission Statement- continued to next meeting.
- b. Review and approve Commission Member Job Description- continued to next meeting.
- c. Meet with Mayor Ness- it was discussed to invite him to a meeting at a later date.

6. Select Committee Recap

- a. Environmental Committee- Gabe Peltier provided the update. The Environmental Committee would like the DAIC to apply for a grant from the Legacy Foundation to map areas of archeological interest regarding Native American sites in the City of Duluth. The mapping would be done by Sue Mulholland. It was noted that there is no mention of Native American history or culture along the Lake Superior shoreline in Duluth. This item will need action by the DAIC and was continued to the next meeting.
- b. Education Committee-Carol DeVerney provided the update. She discussed the bully free campaign. The task force working on this initiative will be meeting June 14th.
- c. Civilian Review Board- Gabe Peltier provided the update. He stated that he and Ricky DeFoe have been attending the meetings.

7. Announcements

- a. Donna Bergstrom announced that they had received a grant from the Duluth Superior Community Foundation for the Feast and Forum. The DAIC need to look at dates and a location for this event.
- b. The Fond du Lac Health Fair will be on Thursday, June 21, from 9am to 3pm.
- c. The Summer Institute in American Indian Child Welfare will be from July 23-26.
- d. The 5th Annual Jerry Fairbanks Scholarship Pow-wow will be held June 8th-10th.

8. Next Meeting: June 18, 2012 at 5:15 PM

9. Adjournment at 7:43.