

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, November 19, 2012 – 5:15 p.m.

Room 303, 3rd Floor City Hall

MEETING SUMMARY

Present: ** Ricky DeFoe, Tina Olson, Terry Goodsky, Terry Smith, Ron Hagland, Carol DeVerney and Babette Sandman

Absent: ** Gabriel Peltier

Staff: Char McLennan, Ben VanTassel

1. Approval of Agenda : Terry Goodsky made the motion to approve the meeting summary, and Terry Smith seconded the motion approved by all.

2. Guest Presentations:

A. Gimaajii Feast and Blessing –Renee Van Nett: Renee provided some information about the Feast and Blessing of the Gimaajii Permanent Supportive Housing Program that opened this summer for Native American women and families. She invited all the DAIC Commission members to attend. The Feast & Blessing will be on 9/21/12 at noon.

B. Spirit Mountain Archeological Project--Sue Mulhalland (UMD) Sue informed the Commission that she met with Leroy Devoe starting the surveying project. Sue and members of the UMD field school spent 4 days surveying. Sue provided a hand out of a map identifying sites of interest. Sue explained that during the survey 22 “pits” were found, but it was unclear as to whether or not they had any significance. The size and location of the pits were mapped and further study will be done to determine if they are significant. Sue reported that a site had been found that appeared to have once been a sweat lodge, but it was heavily overgrown and no artifacts were found to verify that it had been a sweat lodge. Commission members asked if Sue noticed any fasting sites during the survey, but Sue responded that she is unsure as to how to identify such sites. Members also asked Sue about how long ago the SM Villas were built and thought there may be a connection to the pits. They also asked if any Native students participated in the site survey. Sue explained that a notice was posted at UMD but no Native students contacted her. Sue commented that she had not received any grant funds to reimburse field school students, but would continue to seek such funds and may have funding for student participation in the future. Commission members suggested that she check into the Legacy Fund as a good source to apply. UMD Contact Tim Holst – Geology Professor. Matt Johnson – UMD. Sue asked members if they were aware of any other funding sources for a comprehensive archeological survey. Members suggested the Sierra Club of the Nature Conservancy. Ron offered to help Sue pursue a grant application for additional studies.

- C. Northwest Wolf Alliance—Sandra Skinaway: Sandra and her colleague Raina presented information to Commission members about the upcoming ‘wolf hunt’. As members of the Northwest Wolf Alliance, they are concerned about hunting the wolf and have helped to organize the ‘Rally for the Wolf’. Sandra stated that she is seeking support for their activities by the Commission and looking to them to get more Native American people involved. Tribes have already announced that they will not allow the wolf hunt on the reservations. They announced that they hold weekly rallies on Saturdays, and will continue to do so until ‘hunt time’. The rallies are held at the Minnesota Power center at Lake Ave. and Superior Street. They are also planning a Wolf Walk to the Civic Center each Saturday between November 3rd and November 20th at 1:00 pm. Governor Dayton has the authority to stop the wolf hunt, and this group hopes to gain national media coverage to gain support and participation in hopes of getting the governor to stop the hunt. DAIC members offered to help get the word out about the rallies through e-mail and Facebook and also offered to write letters to Governor Dayton and to the Dept. of Natural Resources. A motion was made by Ron Hagland and seconded by Bobbett Sandman for a letter to be drafted by the Commission and sent to the governor and the DNR. Ron agreed to work with Sandra to draft the letter.

3. Public Comment/Discussion Items

- A. Terry Smith announced that he was invited to sit on the interview panel for new police officers. He stated that eight new officers were hired and will start on November 1st. Others asked how the police department reaches out to increase Native American and other minority representation on police force. Officer Wright replied back that Chief Ramsey has ‘doubled’ the diversity on the force since he took over. She also stated that the Duluth Police Dept. was recognized for the “Safety and Accountability Audit” in response to sexual exploitation of Native American women. Officer Wright also stated that a new person was hired in order for the Sex Crime Unit to be: 1) more victim centered, 2) more transparent with partners and with investigation of sexual assault, and 3) to take on the role of sexual advocate on the police force and within the Sex Crime Unit.
- B. A DAIC Special Meeting was held in July to complete drafting of the DAIC Mission Statement. Several suggestions were presented. Tina agreed to put the agreed upon words together in a draft statement and mail it out to the members, which she did. However, this action was tabled until the October meeting.
- C. There was discussion about what topics Commission members would like to address with Duluth City Council members, they include:
1. Appointment Process to the American Indian Commission
 2. Citizen Review Board participation by DAIC members
 3. Lack of support of by city officials at events put on by people of color
- It was suggested that DAIC members draft a letter to the Mayor regarding lack of respect/recognition for minority groups. Tina will draft with help from the others.

4. Old Business

A. Feast & Forum: There was a brief recap and comments shared about the Feast & Forum. Staff passed around pictures taken at the Feast.

B. Sub Committee Recap

1. Environmental: Terry suggested that someone from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) be invited to the October meeting.

2. Education: Ron announced that the school district is waiting for the State to announce Equality Officer for Cultural Centers.

2. Legal: The group that meets about trafficking meets twice a month at Gimaajii. The group is looking for more males to participate.

5. Announcements

- Carol announced that the Bully Free Campaign will hold their next meeting on 9/21/12 at 5:00 pm at Ordean—there is a meal included with the meeting. They will have someone from the School Board come to speak. Also a freelance writer is interested in copies of the policies that the group is putting together. The group is reviewing existing policies on bullying. The Governor’s Task Force on Bullying put out a report with information and recommendations for more strict laws around bullying. Carol will bring copies of the policies to share with DAIC members.

6. Next Meeting: October 16, 2012 at 5:15 pm in room 303, City Hall.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.