

# DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 16, 2014

**Present:** Ricky DeFoe, Carol DeVerney, Tina Olson, Terry Goodsky

**Absent:** Babette Sandman, Jaron Smallwood

**Staff:** Michael Palermo

### 1. Call to Order, Introductions and Minutes

DeFoe called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

Introductions were made. A quorum was present.

Olson made a motion to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes; the motion was seconded by DeVerney. The motion passed.

### 2. Updates

**A. Native Alliance** –None

**B. Police Update** –

- Office Wick gave an update on the Duluth Police Departments current recruitment efforts. On May 21 at Hennepin Technical College and in Duluth the Police Department tested 162 applicants. The department is now in the interview stage.
- Soon all police officers will have body cameras on them. The camera will record police actions.
- DeFoe agreed that the body cameras will help with the perception of the police. He asked who would be the representative from the native community on the review board. Officer Wick was unsure. Defoe asked how many persons of color took the test. Office Wick reported that 20 applicants were woman and 23 applicants were persons of color.
- Officer Ann Clancey introduced herself to the commission. She is the newly appointed Deputy Chief of the Duluth Police Department.
- DeFoe would like to see more relationship building from the police department and pointed out that there were no meetings after the Joupi verdict. Officer Clancey explained that while as a criminal matter the case has been decided the police department is still operating an investigation. While an investigation is underway the police do not comment publically. The criminal matter might have been determined but the civil portion has not been completed.
- DeFoe asked if the Civil Review Board has met with Office Clancey and she explained that the next meeting will be her next meeting.
- DeFoe asked if there were opportunities for ride alongs. Office Wick said anyone who requests a ride along has the opportunity.
- DeFoe asked about the use of muzzles on dog. Officer Wick discussed the two types of muzzles used for the police dogs. Office Wick thought a demonstration with the dog might also be useful along with the use of force demonstration. DeVerney explained that dogs were used to find drugs and

often times addicts. Officer Wick explained that dogs were used to find drugs, bombs, and people but not used for purposes of finding drug addicts specifically. DeVerney clarified and that indirectly the dogs will find drug addicts when sniffing for drugs. Olsen shared her positive experience at an event in Superior, WI that showcased police dogs. DeFoe asked if a use of force demonstration would also be a possibility. Officer Wick said that it may be possible.

### **3. Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **A. Bilingual Signage**

- No update.

#### **B. Ethnographic Study**

- Dr. Bruce White introduced himself to the commission. Dr. White discussed the planning project for the Ethnographic Study for which the commission worked closely and how the project will come to fruition through a new grant from the Minnesota Historical Society Cultural and Legacy Fund. Dr. White has been chosen to complete an Ethnographic Study of the American Indian Population of Duluth and will ask the commission from time to time for help and guidance. The project will focus on determining why the indigenous population and their history is often invisible in Duluth and providing education for future interpretive projects such as a cell phone tour similar to a project in Toronto. First steps will be to Identify Indigenous Representatives who can give oral history interviews and discuss their heritage and provide old stories. Dr. White is thinking about starting with interviewing commission members. He asked the commission about how they want to be contacted and if they would prefer to make a subcommittee or if Dr. White would contact them directly. He felt that the committee met too much last year and could possibly have equal results with a few really good meetings.
- Olsen asked if Dr. White had a methodology about who he will contact. She asked because she may have a good contact list. Dr. White explained that it can sometimes be hard to identify those individuals that don't immediately step forward, but may have the best information. DeVerney suggested that Dr. White contact Pricilla Day at UMD. Ms. Day had worked with the states and tribes for several years and may have good contacts. Dr. White said that he'll be in contact with the commission for suggestions. He also described a situation where he had two brothers who grew up together and one brother lived in Duluth felt as though he didn't have much to say while the other brother did. The brother had a wealth of information. Often times it's just luck that you stumble into a good contact. Several committee members said they would pull together a list of possible interviewees.

### **C. Feast and Forum**

- DeVerney passed out a copy of a letter that will be sent out to 10 tribes asking for monetary support for the feast and forum. Olsen said she also forward them on to the Ordean Foundation and other private foundations.
- It was suggested that commission member applications should be at the forum. It would be a good opportunity to explain the purpose of the commission and ask people to apply. Goodsky suggested having easels with goals and a sign say "Do you want to be a part of this"
- DeFoe brought up a radio show in Superior that they can advertise both the ethnographic study and feast and forum.

### **D. Spirit Mountain**

- DeFoe stressed the continued need for a representative to help protect the site.

### **E. Needs Assessment with UMD – Dr. Jim Amell**

- Dr. Amell addressed the commission and explained that preliminary results from the needs assessment are coming in but he also gained approval from the summer class to continue the study. Dr. Amell will still have oversight of the project although the interviews will be from a different class.
- Dr. Amell is looking for more contacts from the commission. He will provide the list he had developed with John Day to prevent overlap. Olsen suggested discussing the matter at the meeting. DeVerney suggested Dr. Amell reach out to Anthony Hernandez who does community organizing. Defoe thought CHUM and AICHO might have some good suggestions.
- DeFoe highlighted the importance of empowering youth. In addition there are some youth who are in facilities such as the Arrowhead Juvenile Center that may have information of great value. DeVerney thought would be a good idea to contact Babette who should have some contacts at these places. Special permission might be required.
- Indian Education was suggested, Dr. Amell had contacts already. Unity High School and other alternative schools were suggested by DeFoe.

### **8. Announcements-**

- Goodsky brought up a dance at Huntley Friday at 7 and a Pow Wow at Vermillion Friday at 7.
- DeFoe expressed how the community and the commission is benefiting with the Ethnographic Study and Needs Assessment.

### **7. Next Meeting: July 21, 2014**

Olsen Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM, DeVerney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.