

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 19, 2014

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

Absent: Babette Sandman, Jaron Smallwood

Staff: Char McLennan

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Minutes

DeFoe called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Introductions were made after the Public Comment as they did not have a quorum right away.

Goodsky made a motion to approve the March 17, 2014 minutes; the motion was seconded by DeVerney. The motion passed.

2. Updates

A. Native Alliance –none

B. Police Update –

- Officer Wright reminded commission members that she will be retiring at the end of May and then introduced her replacement.
- Officer Wright let the commission know that she would be retiring at the end of the month and introduced her replacement as West End Commander and as Indigenous Commission liaison.
- Brad Wick was there to meet Commission members and tell them some things about his background and work history with the Duluth police department. He currently head of Training and Development for the police department, has been with the department for 28 years--22 of those years was with the Canine Unit, and he lives in West Duluth, is married, has 3 children and 6 grandchildren.
- Officer Wick also talked about the police hiring process starting now to fill 5-7 positions on the force. He said they received 192 applications and will conduct the testing process at two sites, one in Duluth and one in Minneapolis on May 31st. Tests will be scored as either pass or fail. Those that pass will move forward to an oral review process to be conducted at the end of June. The expected hire date is late September.
- Office Wick explained that he would like to work with commission members to find Native American or other minority persons who would be interested in participating on the Oral Review panel. There will be 2 panels to conduct oral review of approximately 100 applicants. Panel review sessions will take about three full days from 8 am to 5 pm at the end of June. Office Wick gave the Commission members his contact information so they can contact him with persons they want to refer. His e-mail address is bwick@duluthmn.gov, his office phone number is 218-730-5688 and his cell number is 218-390-2217.

3. Public Comment

- Karen Spencer informed Commission members that she received notice that she has been appointed to the Human Rights Commission, but she is waiting for the notification letter. She said that there are currently only two HRC members and so there may be 8 or 9 appointments. She further stated that she will continue to attend the Indigenous Commission meetings and keep members informed about the HRC. She gave her contact information, phone 218-722-3889 and e-mail address kaspencer2@yahoo.com. Bob Grytdahl, the Human Rights Office's contact e-mail address is bgrytdahl@duluthmn.gov.
- Chet Welch, a tribal representative on the Minnesota Native American Mental Health Advisory Council, reported that discussion at the Advisory Council centered around licensing for chemical dependency and mental health counseling and Rule 25 assessments. He stated that within five years, administrative and oversight staff will be required to have a Masters of Social Work degree and that Rule 25 assessors be required to have a Bachelor's degree. Some thought that reservations would be exempt from those requirements, but further pointed out that CD/MH counselors on the reservations receive lower pay than others doing the same work. There was also discussion about the need for more culturally specific treatment in CD/MH facilities and the need for education about what culturally specific treatment involves. Further discussion also focused on billing for services. It was pointed out that at one time, St. Louis County reimbursed reservations for Rule 25 assessments, but that ended several years ago. Chet stated that now assessments are being done 'for free', and not reimbursed from the county.

5. Old Business

A. Needs Assessment with UMD – Dr. Jim Amell

- Dr Amell provided Commission members with a Power Point summary of the Needs Assessment results from the student interviews of Commission members and other Native American community resource persons around areas of roles, strengths, needs and issues. He pointed out that common areas of concern were found to be housing, relationships, school services, youth, education, trust and mistrust, substance abuse, resilience and identity.
- Dr Amell also stated that he has spoken to the instructor for the summer class, Dr. Suzie Smalling, and she has agreed to have students from that class conduct interviews with additional Native American community resources, but would need help from Commission members to make contacts in the short class time (two weeks in mid to late June) with additional community members to interview. He would then report to Commission members again with further results in late July or August.
- Tina Olson suggested they expand the Needs Assessment to include interviews with key informants who are non-Native American in order to get a range of community responses. Others agreed that was a good idea. Dr Amell said he would work with CD staff Karen Olesen to identify persons to interview and that students from UMD's fall semester could conduct those interviews and Dr. Amell would report results to Commission members later in the fall.

B. Feast and Forum

The Feast and Forum was not held in April. Commission members discussed rescheduling it during the summer. Tina announced that they received funds from AICHO and Mending the Sacred Hoop--\$500 total, however, their request for funds from Shakopee Midewakonton Sioux Council was not granted.

Members agreed that they should contact others, such as White Earth, Fond du Lac, Milacs and Boise Fort to request funds for the Feast and Forum using the proposal that Tina had written. The new date for the Feast and Forum is tentatively scheduled for August 25, 2014. Tina suggested that it be held at Gimajii rather than Washington Center because there would be no charge for the facility.

6. Agenda Items Tabled

Following the discussion about the Feast and Forum, some Commission members said they needed to leave so they all agreed to table the remaining agenda items until June meeting. Items tabled were New Business item B—Bilingual Signage and Old Business item C—Spirit Mountain.

7. Next Meeting: June 16, 2014

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm.