

DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 18, 2013

Present: Ricky DeFoe, Terry Goodsky, Tina Olson, Ron Hagland, Babette Sandman

Absent: Terry Smith, Carol DeVerney

Staff: Char McLennan, Ben VanTassel

1. Call to Order and Introductions

- Co-Chair Defoe called the meeting to order at 5:20 PM.
- Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda and February 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Hagland; seconded by Sandman to add item under Old Business called St. Louis County Leadership Council Update. Motion passed; unanimous.
- Motion by Sandman; seconded by Olson to approve the Agenda with the change. Motion passed; unanimous.
- Motion by Hagland; seconded by Sandman to approve the February 25, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Motion passed; unanimous.

3. Public Comment

- Police Department Update- Lt. Wright updated the council on the new officer training that is currently happening. Trainings are going well. Also, the March 1st Court Hearing for Officer Jouppi was held, and currently awaiting decision for change of venue. Commissioner Hagland asked about Police Department policy for dealing with fighting at school that seems to be immediately dealt with criminally, rather than other disciplinary routes at school. Lt. Wright would mention this issue to Chief Ramsay. Lt. Wright also mentioned that she would bring an update next month about a West Duluth initiative to address youth and violence, as the initiative is still in the preliminary stages. Co-Chair Defoe asked if another community meeting would be held regarding the incident with Officer Jouppi. Lt. Wright said nothing is planned at this point, but possibly after the case is settled. Hagland asked what changed within the department since this incident. Lt. Wright said all “uses of hard force” have been reviewed to see if it was appropriate. Lt. Wright mentioned that there were high numbers of squads on patrol due to the holiday weekend and the DWI deterrence initiatives.
- Elise Carter Vosen (St. Scholastica) gave a presentation on the upcoming sessions “Pedagogy of the Poor: Building the Movement to End Poverty.”

These sessions are designed to bring groups together to discuss poverty issues and to give those in poverty a voice. The two sessions will be held April 10th (Gimaajii Building) and April 12th (Coppertop Church).

- A former AICHO Employee expressed his disappointment with being denied access to the Gimaajii building. He mentioned that he would like to visit with residents and help those who live there but he is no longer allowed to go in the building.
- A resident at Gimaajii expressed her concerns with the rules and management at Gimaajii. She said that she had hoped getting to live at Gimaajii would help her to stabilize her and her family, but because of lease rules and her family needs, she may have to leave.
- A former employee at Gimaajii spoke that she no longer works at Gimaajii because she had concerns with the treatment of residents. She also had concerns with management and suggested that is why there has been staff turnover.
- Barb Carr mentioned there is a training called “Get on Board” that will be held that focuses on teaching individuals how to be effective members of the community and serve and work with boards. She will forward the information to the Commission.
- Co-Chair Defoe expressed that he is willing to continue trying to work with AICHO on addressing Gimaajii complaints. Commissioner Sandman said that the Commission should seek attending an AICHO Board meeting. Commissioner Olson suggested that the community needs AICHO and its programs and as a community we need to support it. Commissioner Goodsky mentioned that having the property management company hear the residents’ issues might help them to be more flexible.
- Motion by Defoe; seconded by Sandman to invite a DW Jones representative and AICHO Board members to the next Commission Meeting; and for Commissioners to attend the next AICHO Board Meeting. Motion passed; unanimous.

4. New Business

A. Discussion with Community Development Committee

- CD Committee members were in attendance earlier, but had to leave. Staff will see if they can attend a future meeting.

B. Approval of the Mission Statement

- The following mission statement was approved:

As a commission we are committed to building alliances with governmental, Tribal, and community partners that will support the restoration of Indigenous cultural values and

principles, thereby creating collaborative relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens.

We utilize natural laws in the stewardship of the land and its resources. We reclaim cultural beliefs, prioritizing self-determination and Indigenous worldviews relevant to all these relationships.

The commission further commits to addressing concerns pertaining to the Indigenous community, providing a forum to secure an Indigenous voice in decision making. We look to promote and develop leadership by advocating and formulating policy to its implementation.

The standard we will utilize is The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Adopted Sept. 13, 2007.

- Motion by Olson; seconded by Goodsky to approve the Mission Statement as proposed. Motion passed; unanimous.

C. Approval of the name change to Indigenous Commission

- Staff noted that the name change was included in the proposed bylaws.

D. Bylaws notification

- Staff noted that the proposed bylaws begin a 30-day notification period today, and after that 30-day period is up, the Commission will recommend approval.

E. Ogichidaa Update

- No update.

5. Old Business

A. Ojibwa Sign Project- No update.

B. Spirit Mountain Update- No update.

C. Ethnographic Study Update- No update.

D. AICHO Update- No update.

E. Citizen's Review Board Update- No update.

F. St. Louis County Leadership Council

- Staff provided a summary on the Leadership Council and mentioned that they are looking for more representation. Staff will email the Commission about serving on the Leadership Council.

6. Announcements, Upcoming Events, and Comments from Commission

- No announcements.

7. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be April 15, 2013.

8. Adjournment

- Motion by Sandman; seconded by Olson to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. Motion passed; unanimous.