

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION
Monday, February 26, 2018
City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Phoebe Davis, Bob Miller, Larry Heady, Mary Owen, Kassie Helgerson, Donna Newgren-Isaacson

Absent: Amber Lightfeather, Carol DeVerney, Melissa Deverney

Staff: Suzanne Kelley

Note: Per the request of the DIC members two Ojibwe language words are used in the meeting minutes – bezhig (“one”) indicates who made the motion and niizho (“two”) indicates who seconded the motion.

1. Call to Order, Introduction

- Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Davis bezhig/Miller niizho to approve the January 22, 2018 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 7:0**

3. Public Comment

- Mike Casey explained his concerns about the Lower Spirit Mountain Riverside Park Plan, also known as Kayak Bay. Specifically, he was concerned about the extension of infrastructure for the boat launch and the permanent impacts to the environment. He also expressed concern about the project using the word, “spirit”. He told the Commission he would provide additional information.

4. New Business

- Duluth Public Arts Commission (DPAC): Laurel Sanders and Ashley Kolka from DPAC spoke to the Commission.
 - DPAC would like to work with DIC to have a piece of art in Duluth that is visible and represents the native community. It was determined that a subcommittee would be the most appropriate next step.
 - DPAC spoke about the incorrect wordage on the plaque at Leif Erickson park. DIC members provided recommendations regarding removing the statue.
 - DPAC spoke about one of their initiatives which was performing a sensitivity audit of art in Duluth. DIC members wanted to know about the audit and how the information would be used.

5. Action Items

- Gitchi O’de Consultant Preparations/Site Visit – Phoebe Davis will schedule the site visit when the weather is better. City staff has been talking with a consultant about Gitchi o’de.
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution- Babette Sandman will follow up with Councilor Gary Anderson.
- Eagle Staff Resolution- Miller bezhig/Owen niizho to approve the resolution that was included in the packet, which was, “A Resolution Recognizing And Honoring The Eagle Staff As The First Flag

Of The Americas, Representing The Sovereign Indigenous Nations And Communities of North American.” **Motion passed 7:0**

- This resolution will be presented to City Council at a future meeting.
- Skip Sandman will be making the Eagle Staff.
- Opioid Forum/Teach-In- The Opioid Forum will be at Gimaaajii on February 27. There will be the 3rd Opioid Summit that involves the State and 11 Tribes in Fond Du Lac in February or March.

6. Subcommittees

- Education –
 1. Owen informed the Commission that the School District has reallocated the Compensatory Funds from 50% to 80% to the students that need it. The Compensatory Funds will increase 5% annually until it reaches 95%. The Subcommittee will be tracking the funds to make sure they are spent appropriately.
 2. Amber Lightfeather was appointed to the Indian Educational Parent Committee.
 3. The graduation rate from Duluth Schools for Native children is still at 37%, so effort and work is still needed.
 4. Denfeld and Lincoln Park will offer after school tutoring for Native children to learn about their history and culture. Members of the Commission expressed interest in tutoring.
 5. Disparities in the schools still needs to be addressed, especially with regard to bullying and suspension rates.
- Ni Mi Win – The Pow Wow is planned to be at Denfeld this year. The subcommittee is looking at dates. Fund raising will be very important for this event. There was discussion about maintaining the documents from the earlier Ni Mi Win Pow Wows.
- Opioids/Natives Against Heroin (NAH)- The first NAH event at the Central Hillside Community Center was successful, over 100 people attended, including the Mayor. Progress is being made on the sweat lodges.

7. Old Business

- Why Treaties Matter Exhibit- The exhibit was very successful and very well attended.
- Ojibwe Language Signs Update- None given at the meeting. We will wait for an update from Adam Fulton.

8. Announcements/Adjournment:

- Babette and Skip Sandman will be recognized on May 3 for an Honoring Ceremony by the Center of American Indian and Minority Health.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

9. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is March 19, 2018 at 5:30 PM.