

DULUTH INDIGENOUS COMMISSION

Monday, March 19, 2018

City Hall, Room 303

Present: Babette Sandman, Larry Heady, Mary Owen, Kassie Helgerson, Amber Lightfeather, Carol DeVerney, Melissa Deverney

Absent: Phoebe Davis, Bob Miller, Donna Newgren-Isaacson,

Staff: Suzanne Kelley, Kathy Wilson

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 5:38 pm. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of meeting minutes

- Heady bezhig/Helgerson niizho to approve the February 26, 2018 meeting minutes. **Motion passed 7:0**

3. Public Comment

- Deb Smith of the American Lung Association presented a thank you plaque to the Commission for the Commission’s support of the resolution to restrict youth access to flavored tobacco products.

4. New Business

- Earned Sick and Safe Time: Owen bezhig/Helgerson niizho for Owen to draft a resolution in support of the ESST ordinance that is currently being discussed at City Council meetings. **Motion passed 7:0**
- Children’s Dental Services: applying for a \$5,000 grant to conduct outreach for dental services to Native students in the local schools. Owen bezhig/Heady niizho for the indigenous Commission to write a letter of support for the grant application. **Motion passed 7:0**

5. Action Items

- Gitchi O’de Consultant Preparations/Site Visit– City staff are in negotiations with potential consultants. Davis plans to schedule a site visit when the weather is nicer.
- Local Designation of Sacred Sites Resolution- Sandman working with Councilors to plan for next steps
- Eagle Staff Resolution- working with Councilors to plan for next steps.

6. Subcommittees

- Education– The Compensatory Funds resolution was passed by the school board, but the funds were being used to keep class sizes small so there is still a risk that the funds might not be reaching the students they are intended for. Owen asked that any available IC members attend the school board meeting on March 20th to speak in support of using the Compensatory Funds for the students who most need them.

- 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 most recent Sobriety Feast had about 40 attendees. There will be a fire on March 24th 2-4pm. NAH is having shirts made for patrols. Patrols will be organized to pick up garbage and train participants how to pick up needles. NAH is working the Police and will likely have Narcan training at some point too.

7. Old Business

- DPAC – M. DeVerney volunteered to meet with Public Arts Commission members.

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.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:21pm

9. Next Meeting:

Next meeting is April 16, 2018 at 5:30 PM.