



SUPERIOR

WISCONSIN

Living up to our name.

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Minutes

May 14, 2018

Present: Mayor Jim Paine, Kym Young, Natasha Lancour, Stephan Witherspoon, Rani Gill

Also Present: Xavier Bell, Janna Stevens, Debra Topping, Sherry Couture

1. Chair Young opened the meeting at 1:04 pm.
2. No approval of the Minutes of April 9th Meeting.
3. Pat St. Germaine and Gary Johnson expressed an interest in serving on the Commission. They have not been approved by the City Council, therefore are not voting members yet. Neither one was present at the meeting.
4. Table for now.
5. **MLK Day to become a City wide recognized holiday.**
Community Action Duluth is working on an initiative and is waiting for the Board to approve. This Commission is willing to back the initiative. Same proposal will be submitted to the City Council wherein the City of Superior employees will get a paid day off. Superior School District Board Members are meeting tonight and will consider the same proposal.
Motion by Witherspoon, seconded by Lancour, to support the initiative to recognize MLK Day as a city-wide recognized holiday. Motion passed.
6. **Update on Husky Refinery Fire - Mayor Paine**
Paine mentioned that the Douglas County website has been updated every day with updates from Husky. Different agencies are still on site monitoring air quality, soil and drinking water and have reported no trace of toxic exposure. Substantial progress has been made in cleaning up the site, a solid plan is in place to further secure the site and Husky continues to work closely with the regulatory agencies.

The two Mayors from Duluth and Superior have asked Husky to remove the Hydrogen Fluoride, but we do not have jurisdiction to have them remove it. It is going to be a

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very expensive reversion, if they do and will take maybe approximately over a year or so.

Husky continues environmental monitoring at the refinery and around the community. There are 26 fixed monitors placed on the fence line, encircling the facility. A couple of mobile air monitoring teams are continuously collecting quality data in the community.

Water that was collected during the fire is being contained within the refinery's storm water and fire water containment system. Husky is regularly collecting surface water samples from the onsite storm water ponds and at other multiple locations along the Newton Creek. Booms are continually being used as a precautionary measure to help contain any unexpected discharge.

Collection of debris outside the fence line from the refinery is almost complete. People are still asked to call the Husky number if they find any debris on their property and it will be collected immediately.

The two guests, Debra and Sherry had a lot of questions and concerns regarding the water and air quality, the fish in the lakes. A lot of discussion took place regarding the environment and Newton Creek.

Mayor Paine again mentioned that updates from Husky are being put on the Douglas County's website regularly. They used to be weekly, but now they will go to monthly.

7. Upcoming Community Initiatives: Invitation to Round Table with Superior School District (Jana Stevens SSD & Xavier Bell FFC)

The Superior School District has been holding sessions on Race Awareness Workshops and has had a great response. School District is providing comprehensive training to educate teachers, as well as other individuals - Race 101. The round table also touched on increasing employee representation by creating a welcoming work environment.

The hiring process for the School Board was discussed, how to get people of color to apply for these positions and how to deal with complaints from families of color, they need to feel comfortable coming forward. It was suggested to form a Task Force. You cannot change the system, unless you are in it.