

NORTH IOWA DIVERSITY APPRECIATION TEAM

Minutes, November 12, 2003 Meeting

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation met November 12, 2003, at 4 P.M. at City Hall, 10 1st Street NW, Mason City, Iowa.

Present: Molly Anderegg, Jim Spencer, Joy Drennen, Pat Otto, Charlene Judge, Dixie Lamoreux, Sandy Funk, Jeremy Ryal, and Lola Rhem.

After reflections, Spence outlined responses to the question on preferred roles in NIDAT. There was a brief summary of the October 8 seminar on housing and civil rights, with the additional information that Manly now has new houses, federally subsidized, for people who have been employed a year and have an annual income of \$30,000 or less.

Minutes for September were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Payment to Kevin Suhr can now be made from funds from Mercy. The format of the website is complete; there is text to be added. The site is www.northiowadiversity.org. Molly will investigate local banks to establish an account for the remaining funds.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: Charlene is investigating a grant application through Principal. Pat will ask the City about grants under the City's umbrella. Charlene stressed the need to know the target audience and suggested developing more input on community needs. Forward suggestions and thoughts to Charlene at judge.charlene@principal.com.

A spirited discussion then centered on fund raising ideas, publicity, and events. Suggestions included:

- Variant of potluck for fundraiser, with a theme, in April
- Honor October as Diversity Awareness Month, rotating themes. Partner with other groups for publicity (newspaper) - Great opportunity for Community Services and Neighborhood Watch groups
- Event with youth next summer - possibly at North Iowa Fairgrounds - awareness and education, library tie-in, would be draw for parents
- Block party kickoff event - run by Block Party Committee
- Fleetguard in Lake Mills has Cultural Day honoring diversity in their plant - idea could be promoted in other communities and with industry here
- Mailing from NIDAT about diversity events - how to organize gathering information

OTHER: Jeremy shared information on the beginning of a Town Hall concept for neighborhood organizations as a way for MCPD Community Services to reach out to the community. Meetings will start in January in each of the four corners of the City (quadrants), with an emphasis on neighborhood issues. The new law enforcement building will make this outreach possible.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 P.M. The next meeting will be December 10 at 4:00 P.M. at City Hall. The Executive Committee will meet at 3:30 P.M.