

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 in the second floor conference room at City Hall in Mason City. Those present were: Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Lahoma Counts, Jamie Nagel, Ron Wagenaar, Marshall Huffman, Mary Hamiel, Elaine Olson, Joy Drennen, Laurentiu Plaian, and Dixie Lamoreux.

The topic of discussion was the event on Friday, September 15th – Lunch by Central Park 2006.

- At 7:30 am Jane and her husband will block off Federal Avenue between First Street North and State Street.
- Spenc will be bringing 8 tables and 16 chairs to use
- Elaine is going to talk to Mark Suby about getting some trashcans. Mark has already agreed to bring some tables up from East Park to be used for the event.
- Mary and Lahoma will sell tickets. Joy will have start up cash there for them. Mary will bring the tickets and she has made containers and marked them for each vendor to use. When a vendor sells items, tickets will be put into the container and turned in for cash at the end. This should simplify things and vendors will not have to worry about having cash on hand.
- Coverage of the event this year has been great. Spenc did one radio interview and Jane will do her third on the 14th. Mary has handed out brochures to the downtown businesses and Dan has put them out in the Principal building. Jane and Elaine will do some more handouts Thursday. There has also been a press release in the Globe Gazette and some radio advertising of the event. All of this should help considerably. Mary also emailed the Chamber members and Dan will be doing a building-wide email at Principal.
- Jane has laminated menus with items listed and the number of tickets for each item. Cups will be handed out with purchase of food and people can serve themselves with the soda provided by Coca Cola. Drink is free with food purchase.
- Jane has some ethnic-type music and Dixie will be getting some other CD's to use.

So it seems everything has been pretty well handled. KLSS will be broadcasting live for a couple of hours during the event. Joy will be there with the checkbook so vendors and KLSS can be paid that day.

A big Thank You to everyone who has worked so hard on this event.

Dan explained that with the cancellation of the Hispanic/Latino Festival, our grant was withdrawn from the Principal Foundation. There was one application for both events and with the cancellation at this late date, it just seemed better to withdraw for this year and reapply next year and get things in earlier.

Jane also cancelled the grant money that was awarded from the Iowa Arts Council for the Hispanic/Latino Festival.

There will still be a Hispanic/Latino exhibit at the September 15th event.

We are still in need of some diverse ethnic representation on the NIDAT. Ideally we could use both Asian and Hispanic representation. In the past we have had African American members but none have been attending meetings lately. If anyone knows people who would like to attend meetings, please feel free to invite them. New people are always welcomed.

Our October meeting will be on ***October 11th*** and we will need to discuss the topics for Black History essays. Jane will contact Hal Minear from the public schools and have him attend. We have to make some decisions so the essays can be done and judged in plenty of time this year. Black History month is not until February, but we want to allow plenty of time.

Respectfully Submitted By – Dixie Lamoreux