

NIDAT MINUTES 10-11-06

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met in the 2nd floor conference room at City Hall on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. Those present included Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Jamie Nagel, Ron Wagenaar, Hal Minear, Mary Hamiel and Dixie Lamoreux.

There was a brief discussion of the September Lunch by the Park event and its success. We all agree that this was a very successful event for NIDAT. We actually made about \$100 profit due to tickets being purchased and unused. We will definitely work on getting more vendors involved. This seems to be our biggest challenge each year. Those vendors that we do have seem to sell out of food and that is good for them but we definitely need to expand. There are a couple of people that have mentioned they would like to take part in the event and we will definitely contact them next year.

We also discussed having a mini-recruitment campaign; sending letters out to prospective members to diversify the ethnic membership of NIDAT. The letter will be followed up by a phone call. Dixie will put together a letter and send it out within the next week or so. If anyone has any names they think the letter might need to go to, please contact either Jane or Dixie.

Jane sent an agenda out ahead of time to help us in making decisions related to the planning of the event for Black History month in February. We will again be sponsoring a contest within the Mason City schools, both public and private, where students submit essays and/or art projects related to black history. Topics for the essays were discussed and decided upon. Projects will be judged and prizes awarded at three levels – elementary, middle and high school. There will again be a panel of judges representing different groups. First place awards will be monetary and 2nd place prizes are yet to be decided. Different ideas were thrown out and discussed. Jane will be checking with Bob Hartfield at the Post Office to see if they would be willing and able to help us out again this year. More decisions will be made at our November meeting.

Hal is going to have the fliers for the contest printed up and will distribute them to the schools. All of the rules, topics, etc will be covered in the fliers as well as a statement or form that has to be returned with parental permission given to display the work of the students. Deadline for submitting projects will be January 5, 2007. This allows them time over Christmas break to work on projects.

Dixie will again print certificates for all students submitting work. We will also be checking into getting some Public Service Announcements from local media for the events as well as coverage of the event in February. Hal has a DVD that was given to the high school from the post office and we will check into possibly making copies and distributing them to other schools for them to show students. It is related to Black History and Hal said it is a good presentation.

Another major issue of interest was an announcement by Jane that Jim Spencer will no longer be able to co-chair NIDAT. He is being forced to resign due to other commitments that just make it impossible to continue. Spenc assures us that Mercy will still support NIDAT and that is very good news. With Spenc's resignation, Dan Gapinski has graciously agreed to co-chair with Jane. All of those present agreed this is a good fit and are grateful to Dan for stepping up.

As a part of her requirements, Jamie (Legal Services Intern) has to complete a project on Martin Luther King and asked if we had any ideas on how our Black History event could possibly tie in for her. She is going to check and see if she could possibly use our event instead.

In November we will discuss the event more and make some final decisions so the necessary contacts can be made and things set up. We have allowed ourselves ample time to not be rushed and facing deadlines we have trouble meeting this time

Our next meeting will be on November 8th at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux