

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 in the second floor conference room of City Hall in Mason City. Those present included: Dan Gapinski, Eric Branson, Mark Miller, Marshall Huffman, Ron Wagenaar, Elaine Olson, Jane Ginapp, Mary Hamiel, Jack Ganett, Jamie Nagel, Tammy Hove, Lahoma Counts, Lionel Foster, Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Joy Drennen stating that money in the account remains the same as last time with no new expenditures.

Dan brought the application for a grant from Principal for Jane's signature. The grant will now be submitted and we are hoping to hear back by September. Jane said that Mercy grant format has not yet been made available. With the vacancy created when Jim Spencer moved to Sioux City she is not sure when that will be available and we can submit a grant to Mercy also. She will keep an eye on that so we can apply at the earliest possible time.

Dixie had copies of the by laws as they were updated by herself and Ron. Dan suggested that we change Article 3 to read that we have two co-chairs rather than a chair and co-chair. This will be done and they will be at the next meeting for necessary signatures. Marshall moved that they be accepted as updated and motion was passed.

There was discussion again on the calendars we are looking into printing and selling to make a profit for NIDAT. Jane gave the packet with photos and information to be used on the calendars to Tammy Hove. Tammy has a student from NIACC lined up to do the prep work for us at no charge. Before the next meeting some of the members will be checking into various costs so we can get this project started and completed in plenty of time for the calendars to be sold at our Lunch by the Park event in September.

The next topic for discussion was Lunch by the Park. Eric suggested that we contact other non-profit groups and organizations to work with NIDAT at this event. We can have booths to promote their groups. This will generate traffic for the event and awareness for NIDAT as well as the other groups. He volunteered to write and initial letter to be sent out to these groups. Follow-up phone contacts will be made also.

If we are successful in recruiting other groups to work with us we will definitely need to have more food than in past years. Mary will check into both Japanese and Asian food possibilities. We will again have the Mexican food from the Holy Family Men's group as well as Italian food from Homeless Shelter and pies from Pies and More. We also discussed NIDAT having a food booth to help us earn some money. Dan said he would grill food if we do this. Mary Lopez has expressed an interest in exhibiting again this year also.

We need to have an alternate plan for exhibitors in case it would rain. We will check into the possibility of having tables for them inside Southbridge Mall if it rains. We will definitely need to be able to give each group at least one table for their display/information. More on this will be discussed in June at our meeting, including the promotion and advertising of the event.

Meeting adjourned at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux