

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met in the second floor conference room at City Hall in Mason City at 4 PM on Wednesday, June 13, 2007. Those attending were: Joy Drennen, Mike Lashbrook, Mary Hameil, Aimee Kern, Lahoma Counts, Mark Miller, Elaine Olson, Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Ron Wagenaar, and Dixie Lamoreux.

We began the meeting with introductions since we had a first time attendee. Mike Lashbrook, the Mason City Chief of Police joined us for the first time.

Joy told us that Shelly Schmidt from NIACC will be joining us as a representative from there, but she was unable to make this meeting. It will be nice to have Shelly back as a member of NIDAT.

Dixie had a copy of the by-laws for Jane and Dan to sign as co-chairs. We will need to have these so we can use them when applying for grants in the future.

Joy reported that our bank balance is \$1819.26.

Dan gave a brief update on the Principal Grant that NIDAT has submitted. They are looking for a bit more information in the way of NIDAT's history and yearly summaries of NIDAT. Jane, Joy, Dan and Lahoma will be trying to tie things together to create this.

Aimee told us that Mercy's Grant process will definitely be more structured than in the past and she is unsure at this time if money will even be available. Mercy has implemented a diversity initiative and will be naming a new missions VP in the next few weeks.

Jane next brought up the topic of calendars. Unless we can find an inexpensive way to get them printed and have everything lined up very soon or we will have to completely abandon the idea for this year. Our finances just don't allow us to take on anything like that.

The final topic of discussion was the Lunch in Central Park on September 14th. The vendors that are lined up are: Pate Vega and the Men's Club from Holy Family Church for Mexican food; Joey Van Zomeran and the Men's Shelter group for Italian food; NIDAT (Dan will be our chef) for German/Polish. Pies and More will have fresh pies and Mary will be checking with the Mixin Block about them serving Gyros (Greek) and Ron will be checking with some of his church members about some Dutch pastries. Elaine also said that she knows someone from Northwood that makes Norwegian food. Aimee also mentioned that she knows some ladies who ran an Asian restaurant in Mason City and she will try and contact them. If we could get three more vendors to commit to us, our array of ethnic foods would be great and this is what we need to have. Hopefully we will be successful in our efforts to recruit them. It is an opportunity for them to make some money as well so it is a win-win situation.

So far we have two exhibits (Spanish and Greek) and we are hopeful that we will be able to get some of the service organizations in the area to have tables with information available about their organization so make people aware of all of the opportunities there are in our area. Jane and Elaine are going to work on the list of organizations and then get with Eric Branson who is writing a letter for us to mail out to them.

We talked about the need to have the street to the east of the park blocked off and even though we can now go into the park with picnic tables and the exhibits, we still feel that the street needs to be blocked to prevent traffic from using it. There will probably be exhibits on the east side of the street across from the park so there will be foot traffic there also.

To promote our event in September we will be trying to get some free airtime from KCMR, KGLO and 3 Eagles radio stations. We do not have the funds to be able to purchase time so we will be checking on the options we have to utilize free spots to promote our event.

Dan has sound equipment that he will let us use so we can have ethnic music playing during the event. He also has a few ethnic CD's for us to use.

Things seem to be coming together for our Lunch in the Park event in September and we will need to have things firmed up so we can go over them all at our July meeting. The date for that meeting will be July 11. Meeting time will be the same as always – 4 PM.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux