

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met in the second floor conference room at City Hall on Wednesday July 11, 2007. Those present included Joy Drennen, Eric Branson, Mark Miller, Marshall Huffman, Darcy Skellenger, Betty Gildersleeve, Elaine Olson, Mary Hamiel, Jane Ginapp, Ron Wagenaar, Lahoma Counts, Cecilia Robles and Dixie Lamoreux.

We began with introductions, as there were a couple of new people in attendance.

Eric brought copies of the letter he drafted to send to agencies that might be interested in having informational exhibits at our Lunch BY Central Park event in September. He will send the letter out next week and people/agencies will contact him if they are interested. NIDAT will take care of providing a folding table and chair for each exhibitor.

Joy reported that our bank account balance is presently \$1820.21.

Co-chair, Dan Gapinski was unable to attend the meeting but gave Jane some information regarding the Principal grant application we have submitted. Principal is still considering our application and may need more financial information. Jane has compiled a history for NIDAT that includes financial information for each year. It is the hope that they can find out exactly what information Principal wants and that between Dan, Jane and Joy Drennen they can find the information among our records.

Our hopes of printing and selling NIDAT calendars as a fundraiser this year are fading, but Lahoma has been in contact with Dave Nutting from Hamilton College and there is still a small hope there that we could get the calendars printed at a cost we could afford and still make a profit. They were looking at a printing cost of around \$1 per calendar. We really do need to raise funds to keep us going and the calendars could do that and get our name out there at the same time. NIDAT is not a well-known group and we do need to raise awareness.

The final topic on our agenda was the Lunch By Central Park event that will take place on September 14th. We have more food vendors lined up this year than we have had in the past. Each year we have grown and there is a definite need for more food vendors. Last year we ran out of some of the food and while this is great for the vendors, it is not such a good deal for NIDAT. We just need to provide food like we advertise for the event and be able to feed those who attend. Presently we have Mexican, Italian, German, Greek and American food for sure with a possibility of Japanese and Dutch also.

In the past Jim Spencer arranged for Coca Cola to provide drinks for us and they did so and never charged us. That will not be the case this year. Jane invited representatives from the Girl Scouts to the meeting and proposed that they sell the drinks and use it as a fundraiser. Darcy and Betty were representing the Girl Scouts and they thought this would be a good opportunity to raise money for an upcoming trip some of the girls will be taking.

Cecilia will be one of the cultural exhibitors for our event. She will have a Hispanic and possibly a Greek display also. We have no firm commitments yet but may also have a Japanese and Italian exhibit. Cecilia is also going to speak to a local doctor about displaying some of his cultural items and pictures.

Jane printed a flier for our September event and Dixie will make copies and get them to Cecilia. She will be attending the Heritage Fest at Holy Family on the 14th of July and will take them there to distribute. She also translated the flier into Spanish and gave it to Jane. So some could be done in Spanish also. Jane is going to email the flier to Betty at the Girl Scout office and she will send it out in their newsletter. Jane will also send it to other diversity groups in the state.

Dixie will work on the brochure but it cannot be finalized and printed until we have firmed up the vendor list. We decided that we would print the brochure on one side in English and on the other side in Spanish also. Dixie will contact Mary Hamiel about the Chamber putting the brochure in their newsletters also.

Jane said that the garbage cans and picnic tables from East Park would be brought to Central Park for us to use for the event. She has talked to Mark Suby about this already.

There will be interviews on the radio and possibly on television to promote our event. Dan will be providing equipment for us to be able to play ethnic-type music for the event.

Things seem to be coming together nicely for this event and we should have no problems getting any unresolved issues taken care of at our August meeting. That meeting will be on August 8th at 4 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50.