

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met at 4 pm on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 in the second floor conference room of City Hall in Mason City. Those present included: Lionel Foster, Dan Gapinski, Jennifer Andrade, Lahoma Counts, Linda Woodcock, Marshall Huffman, Eric Branson, Joy Drennen, Elida Valdez, Jane Ginapp and Dixie Lamoreux.

Lahoma reported that she has been in contact with Hamilton College about the calendar project and that the price they have discussed is between \$3 and \$4 per calendar to print and put them together for us. There was some discussion as to how many we can afford because we have very little money for such costs. 250 or 300 rather than the 500 that was discussed earlier seems to more realistic for us since this is a new venture and we do not know how many we can sell. The idea is to make some money for NIDAT to help cover costs of the events we sponsor each year. There is a definite deadline we are working with here and that may be a problem also.

Mercy Hospital has agreed to give us \$250 to use for our "Lunch by Central Park 2007" but they need a designated expenditure that we will use the money for. After a small discussion it was decided that we will use it to pay KLSS to provide live coverage for the event on September 14<sup>th</sup>. We will also be asking the local radio stations for some free public service announcements to promote the event. Some have already agreed to give us some air time and Dan, Jane and Eric will be doing the promos and also speaking the day of the event.

Set up time on the 14<sup>th</sup> will be 10 am and we will be able to use anyone and everyone that is willing to help out. Joy will be there by 10:30 with the cash we will need for ticket sales. The Downtown Association will provide money bags and tickets for us to use. Sale of tickets will be by Elaine Olson, Mary Hameil and Linda Woodcock.

Jane will be getting a flyer out to the vendors regarding inspections, pricing, signs, parking, etc. soon. Dixie will get the informational flyer for NIDAT to Cecelia Robles to have it translated and get it printed up and out to various people to distribute before the event. We will try to get it into church bulletins if possible also. Jane will also contact Mark Miller to see about coverage from the Globe Gazette.

Eric has received requests from about a dozen agencies that want to have an informational table in the park for the event. They will each be provided with a table for their information and one chair.

Elida Valdez attended the meeting in place of Cecelia and was very helpful. She reported that she have lined up cultural exhibits for the event and we will have exhibits from Mexico, Spain, India and possibly one from Greece and one from Hungary. She will be getting back to us about the one from Greece early next week so it can get into the brochure.

Tables and garbage cans will be brought to Central Park from East Park by the Parks Department. Barricades for the street will come from the Mason City Police Department and Jane will be contacting them about that. She will also ask them to have parked cars on that block of North Federal removed for the event even if it requires having them towed.

Things seem to be coming together well and with the variety of food and exhibitors we have this year it should be a very successful event.

With the remaining time, Jennifer Andrade, an Outreach Specialist with the New Iowans centers spoke briefly on what they are offering in the area. So as not to duplicate services, they will be doing a lot of referring to other agencies in the 17 county area Jennifer covers. Some of the things they will be addressing for people new to the area are ELS/GED classes, citizenship, immigration issues, computer classes, job assistance, discrimination issues, housing, translations. Her office in Mason City is at the Workforce Center.

The meeting adjourned about 5:05. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. This will hopefully be a short meeting to just touch base and address any last minute issues before our "Lunch by Central Park 2007". Meeting time will be 4 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Dixie Lamoreux