

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met in the basement conference room of City Hall in Mason City on Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Those attending the meeting included: Melissa Weiner, Joy Drennen, Marshall Huffman, Eric Branson, Mary Lopez, Elida Valdez-Campos, Ron Wagenaar, Lahoma Counts, Shelly Schmidt, Jennifer Andrade, William Stuflick, Jack Gannett, Dan Gapinski, Linda Woodcock, Mary Hamiel, Jane Ginapp and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane Ginapp called the meeting to order at 4 pm. The entire agenda was centered around making the final preparations for "Lunch by Central Park", the event that NIDAT co sponsors with the Downtown Association and the Human Resource Association of North Iowa.

Flyers were distributed; vendors have all been contacted and confirmed; the necessary permits have been secured and things are all pretty well lined up. Jane has made signs for the vendors and exhibitors as well as a master menu. It was discussed and decided that the pastries that will be sold at the Greek exhibit will not require tickets and can just be sold for cash. This will eliminate a hassle for customers. Mary Lopez has made some tablecloths for the picnic tables that will be used for eating.

NIDAT will hopefully be able to see a profit from the event with a food booth that is being manned by Dan Gapinski and Steve Wendt.

Linda Woodcock and Elaine Olson will sell tickets that people will use to purchase food from vendors.

Volunteers are needed for teardown at 2 pm. Amy Kern, Eric Branson and Ron Wagenaar have all volunteered and hopefully there will be others there that can also help out.

Jane asked that people be there by 10 am to assist wherever needed with setting things up. Tables will be brought out on carts from the Mall and will need to be set up. Chairs will also come from the Mall. We will be getting about 18 tables total for 16 exhibitors.

There have been live interviews with Eric, Jane and Dan on the various radio stations in the area as well as some coverage in the newspapers and PSA's on the radio. Mary will contact John Skipper about getting some possible from the Globe Gazette at the event.

The street on the east side of the park (Federal Avenue) will be closed between State Street and 1st Street for the event. All that is left is the cooperation of Mother Nature in giving us a nice day for the event.

Jane asked Mary about the possibility of Lunch by Central Park combining with the River City Festival that will be held this year on the same weekend. Since this is the first year for the festival and it actually came together quickly, there is no guarantee as to when it would be held in the future if it becomes an annual event. Mary did think it sounded like it could work out and that is something that will need to be discussed and acted upon in the future.

Dan also mentioned that he did receive a call from Principal in Des Moines in regard to our application for grant monies and they just asked him a couple of questions. They did not indicate anything definite, but we all hope it is a favorable sign for NIDAT and that we may get some grant money to use for future events.

With everything in order for the event, the meeting adjourned about 4:45.

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 10th at 4 PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux