

NIDAT MINUTES FOR AUGUST 13, 2008

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 in the second floor conference room at City Hall in Mason City. Those in attendance included: Dan Gapinski, Darcy Skellenger, April Concepcion, Libby Lembke, Mary Hamiel, Marshall Huffman, Lahoma Counts, Melissa Weiner, Jane Ginapp, Rev. Jack Gannett, Barry TerHark and Aimee Kern.

Jane called the meeting to order at 4 PM. In Joy's absence she reported that we have a bank balance of \$1738.20. Joy will be getting two money bags ready for the September 19th Luncheon and each bag will start with \$200.

Dixie reported on the Outreach booth for NIDAT at the National Night Out Against Crime that was held in East Park on August 5th. With the perfect weather we had for the event, attendance was good. Over 1000 people attended. NIDAT bookmarks with our web site address on one side and mission and meeting information on the other were given out. One bright spot from that booth was that Barry TerHark received information there and attended this meeting. We welcome him.

The Iowa Mosaic Diversity Conference will be held in Ames on October 20, 2008. Jane wrote a letter and asked that the City pay for someone to attend. Cost is \$100 per person. Jane has attended in the past and says it is quite the conference and urges anyone interested to attend. Dan is going to ask if Principal might pay for him to attend and he would represent both Principal and NIDAT.

The final item on the agenda was finalizing plans for the lunch on September 19th. The hottest issue right now is the tables. We could need up to forty of them and to simplify things we would like to get them all from one location. Dixie has checked with the manager of the Affordables store and he will have people to haul them to and from the park for us on the 19th. Some checking will be done between now and the September 10th meeting and hopefully we can get this settled. In the past we have used them from the mall but they now charge for table use and we would like to be able to borrow them rather than pay for them, as we don't have a lot of money. If all else fails we can rent them at a cost of \$6.50 per table and 70 cents per chair from Rent All.

Jane has made signs for all of the vendors as well as for the cultural exhibits and we have eight cultural exhibits this year. She used flags for the cultural signs and various clip art pictures for the food vendor signs. She then laminated each of them and they look very nice.

She passed around sign up sheets for people to help set up and tear down on the 19th. Hopefully we will get enough volunteers and this won't be a problem.

Mary H. has been in contact with Dennis Higgins and assures us that the electrical issues we have had in past years will be taken care of.

Elaine Olson has spoken with the local police department about the closing of Federal Avenue between First Street North and State Street for the event. We will be setting up tables on the sidewalks for the food vendors and the Information Fair, tables will be in the street for the cultural displays, along with picnic tables from East Park for eating.

Linda Woodcock is in charge of the tickets and the buckets for them. Darcy brought a few in case she doesn't have enough of them. Mary said that Linda was able to pick up some tickets from a garage sale and thinks she will have plenty. We think that we will need about 3000 of them. We used over 2000 last year and we have more vendors and cultural exhibits than we had in 2007.

Deb Cites has not contacted Jane with any numbers for the information fair but hopefully we will hear from her soon. Then we will be able to firm up a table count and know what we are dealing with. The publicity seems to be coming along with Jane, Marshall and Libbey all working on it. Aimee is going to check with Mercy to see about getting it on the Mercy channel that is shown on TV in the patients' rooms. Jane has already gotten a power point presentation on the Channel 4 events that run. She told them to run it randomly from August 1st through September 19th and she said she has seen it so we know that it is currently running.

Jane also showed us the flyer she will be emailing to everyone and asking that we all print up some and distribute them where we can. Libbey will have the Downtown Association print some up and Jane and Elaine Olson will be distributing them throughout the downtown area also. Libbey will send it out to the membership of the Downtown Association; Dan will get it out to all Principal employees and Aimee will be getting it to Mercy employees. This should help the cause tremendously.

Jane and Dan will be doing the KCMR interview on September 16th that has been set up.

Jane also reminded us that our web site contract with Matt Marquardt will be coming due and we want him to do a little more for us this year and he has promised to be fair with his costs for us.

The meeting adjourned about 4:50.

Next meeting will be on September 10th. We will be tying up any loose ends for the lunch and then Aimee Kern will lead a Strategic Planning session for NIDAT. We will talk about NIDAT's role in the Community, recruitment and retention of members, the direction we want NIDAT to go and matching talents and skills to help us achieve these things. Hopefully we will have a good attendance to help us do this.

Respectfully submitted by –
Dixie Lamoreux
NIDAT Secretary