

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met November 12, 2008, at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall, Mason City. Present: Jane Ginapp, Scott Pardoe, Linda Woodcock, Lahoma Counts, Aimee Kern, Barry Ter Hark, Hal Minear, and Joy Drennen.

In the absence of the check book, Joy said the checking account has approximately \$2,231. (To be exact, upon checking at home, the total is \$2,231.22.)

Aimee presented the Steering Committee report, and said the goal at the last meeting was to formulate strategic objectives. The committee did some work on the by-laws, and the proposed changes speak to structure. The existing by-laws were part of a grant application. Proposed changes were underlined. Under Section 1, Subcommittees, items presented in 1, 2, and 3 would be subcommittees, with 3-5 people on a committee. The first committee to be organized would be the Special Events Committee, related to the arts and writing contest for March. Jane Ginapp volunteered to be a part of that committee. Will be finalizing by-laws at the next meeting with an organizational chart, a Gantt chart visual of objectives, timeline.

Jane reminded the group about the resource directory work with Jennifer Andrade from Workforce. The directory will have to be checked carefully for accuracy. Barry TerHark volunteered to be on the Networking and Partnering Committee. Lahoma Counts (Elderbridge) has updated resource directories for individual counties that may be a helpful resource.

The last two grants were from Principal, and Dan did the paperwork. There will be an end of the year report. Technically the grant goes to the city.

For the art/writing contests, Jane has contacted Buffy at NIACC about the books, which will cost \$7.75 this year. The front of the book will read: The Bridge, Embracing Diversity Through Art & Writing.

Aimee will check the Clear Lake office of the Clear Lake Bank and Trust for possible sponsorship for the art/writing contest. Joy will check with First Citizens. Jane will check with Wells Fargo and Dr. Demro. Scott will check with his bank in Forest City. Hal will check with Community Bank and Barry will check with NSB. For any financial donation, a receipt can be obtained from the city for tax deduction purposes if the sponsor requests it.

Reaching out to other school districts was discussed, followed by a discussion of prizes. First prize for art will again be a framed sheet of commemorative stamps made from the student's designs (sponsored by Scot Pardoe of the Post Office). Second prize will be \$25. For writing, prizes will be \$50 across the board for the three first-place winners. Second place will be \$25. There will not be a 3rd place.

Name for the March Event will be "Embracing Diversity Art & Writing Contest." The event will be March 5 at the MacNider Art Museum. Due deadline for submissions is set for Feb. 6. Separate flyers for art and writing are being updated and have been sent out for review. It was agreed to use the Mission Statement on the flyer.

Each entry is to have the contestant's name, school, and grade on the back and legible.

Barry will check on a parents meeting for kids who are home schooled. Judges will be discussed and contacted in December.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Next meeting is December 10 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Submitted by Joy Drennen