

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 in the 2nd floor conference room at City Hall in Mason City. Those present were: Libby Lembke, Linda Woodcock, Melissa Weiner, Barry TerHark, Elaine Olson, Jane Ginapp, and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order at 4:05

Dixie was the only one present that had attended the Steering Committee meetings. From the first meeting came an update on the NIDAT By-laws that was to be voted on. With so few people in attendance, Elaine made a motion to table the vote until the January meeting; Linda seconded the motion. Jane called for a vote and the motion carried.

Jane requested that the Steering Committee clarify the role of the committees and their relationship with each other. So far Barry Terhark and Jennifer Andrade have volunteered to serve on the Networking and Partnering Committee. Jane Ginapp and Melissa Weiner have volunteered to serve on the Special Events Committee. It was also discussed that we need to define a quorum and decide on a number so that when something is voted on (like the by-laws) we have a quorum present in order to pass an issue. Dixie suggested that perhaps we could look at average attendance for a year and come up with a logical number to make up the quorum. This would be an idea because many of our members do not attend meetings on a regular basis. Dixie will gather the information and it can be discussed in January.

In Dan Gapinski's absence, there was no report on the Diversity Conference he attended.

The Special Events Committee is working on the Embracing Diversity Art/Writing Contest. Date of the Awards Ceremony event is March 5, 2009. Things are coming together nicely. Flyers have been sent out to schools as well as to the home schoolers in the area. Hal Minear was absent, but Jane is checking with him to be sure everything has gone out as planned.

Once again there will be a book compiled and published with the essays and artwork entries. Cost for the books will be \$7.75 (up just a quarter from last year) To help with the costs for the books and the prizes, NIDAT has been awarded \$150 from Northwood State Bank and another \$300 from Diamond Jo Casino. In addition, Melissa Weiner of the Human Rights Commission has notified us that they will sponsor \$100 towards the printing of the books.

Next we discussed Judges for the art and essays. Jane will be sending letters to the judges this year to confirm their willingness to be a judge. In the past some of them have forgotten about it and when the time arrived for the judging, one person was left to do it all. Hopefully a letter closer to the actual date of the judging will help with this. Names of potential judges are John Skipper and Bob Link for essay judges. Melissa is also checking to see if perhaps one of the Human Rights Commissioners would be a judge. For art judges names mentioned were Wendy Meineke, Peggy Bang, Kathy VanDyke and Jan Kostka. Dixie will be making some contacts and report in January. Actual judging will be done by mid February so books can be done in time for the event in March.

We are also looking for entertainment for the event in March. Jane will be checking on having the Girl Scouts do the opening flag ceremony and perhaps serving cookies and punch as they did last year. A couple of names were brought up for entertainment possibilities and Jane will be checking with Cecelia Robles and Hal Minear to see if they might know of anyone.

With no further business to discuss, Elaine made a motion to adjourn; Barry seconded. Motion carried. Our next meeting will be January 14, 2009 at 4 PM

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux