

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 in the second floor conference room at City Hall. Those in attendance included: Dan Gapinski, Linda Woodcock, Darcy Skellenger, Marshall Huffman, Barry TerHark, Jane Ginapp, Aimee Kern and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order at 4 pm. In the absence of the treasurer, Jane reported that we have a bank balance of \$2161.69. With the donations we received for the Writing/Art contest along with the expenses we had for the printing of the books, prizes, etc., we had to use very little of our cash reserve. Darcy turned in a bill for \$45 for the refreshments and after a brief discussion Linda made the motion that NIDAT pay the full amount of \$45; Dan seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed unanimously.

The next topic for discussion was the Resource Directory. It is pretty well complete for Cerro Gordo County. Dixie gave Barry a couple of wording changes and he will make those. He will then meet with Matt Marquardt who was not able to attend this meeting and talk about getting the directory on or linked to our website. Barry will also talk with Matt about the possibility of translating the directory, tracking hits to the site, and key words to be used for the search engine. Tracking the hits will let us know if this is a worthwhile venture for members to pursue and add to.

Next, Dan reported that the Steering Committee had met and refreshed topics that had been discussed previously. New items touched included membership, recruiting and terms for officers. The committee plans to meet twice before the next NIDAT meeting to be able to stay on track of having a draft done by mid summer and things finalized and ready for a vote in September.

The next topic of discussion was the Lunch by Central Park to be held on Friday, September 18, 2009. Jane passed around a to do list she created and it will be very helpful in making sure things get done when they need to get done in order to get ready for the lunch. One of the main concerns is the tables and chairs that we will need to have brought in. Since there is money in our account that we can use, Jane is going to check with Mason City Rentals to see if they will give us a deal on renting them and they will do the hauling and pick up. Last year this became a huge burden with only a couple of people stepping up to the plate and helping. We had delays in pickups and getting them back was a real ordeal. It will just be easier and we felt cost effective for us to rent both tables and chairs.

A couple of other things we need to do differently are the table cloths for the picnic tables need to be secured and Darcy said that she has a big supply of table cloth clips and she will let us use them. We can purchase a roll of plastic from Martin Brothers and save it to be used for a couple of years to come. The publicity also needs to be a key focus for the event.

Aimee brought up the fact that since the information fair has not been a big success and we have tried it a couple years, perhaps we could change directions and have a small program highlighting a business, an individual and an organization/agency that exemplifies diversity in the area. NIDAT could present them with certificates of recognition and enlighten those in attendance with the contributions each has made to North Iowa Diversity. The idea was discussed with much enthusiasm and Marshall made the motion to go forward in changing from the Information Fair to a recognition format to embrace the mission of NIDAT. Darcy seconded the motion and it was voted on and carried unanimously.

There will still be ethnic displays but with the loss of a couple of key people that have moved from the area, these may be down in number.

Food vendors from last year will be sent a letter and asked if they need more than 2 tables and 2 chairs and if they require electricity. Girl Scouts will again provide the drinks at their table. Dan will be contacting a possible new vendor who works at Principal and is from Nigeria and we may also check into the Norwegian Club from 1st Citizen's Bank serving food.

Dan is going to check to see if the International Students from NIACC and Waldorf could do anything for the event.

Discussions will continue and hopefully firm up some things at the May meeting. Before adjourning, Jane passed out a handout she received during a presentation held by Mercy Hospital entitled "When Not Everyone at Work is from Here". The speaker (Alan Headbloom) was very good and gave Jane permission to copy the handout for the Diversity Team.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted by Dixie Lamoreux