

Nidat Minutes for June 2009 Meeting

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met at 4 pm on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 in the 2nd floor conference room of City Hall in Mason City. Those present were: Linda Woodcock, Lynda Schmitz, Marshall Huffman, Aimee Kern, Jane Ginapp and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order. As Lynda Schmitz was attending her first meeting, introductions were made to start things off.

In Joy Drennen's absence, Jane reported that we have a bank balance of \$2168.37.

Jane also told us that Barry Ter Hark had contacted her and reported that he has begun working on the Franklin County information for the Resource Directory. Jennifer Andrade is also working with him on getting this information together. The Franklin County Resource Directory will be placed on the August meeting agenda.

In Dan Gapinski's absence, Aimee reported on the by-law progress being made by the Steering Committee. She had a handout for everyone and highlighted the changes, additions, etc that are being proposed. There will be further discussion scheduled for the July and August meetings and then a final vote can be taken at the September meeting. A couple of the main items that need to be discussed include membership and election of officers. This was a good discussion (with differing opinions) with the main point being that we need to have a foundation if we want to be taken seriously and hopefully be able to increase both membership and finances.

The preliminary attendance chart that Aimee came up with was also shared because the by-laws contain a section on voting membership and if that passes we need to be able to track the past twelve months at all times and the format she came up with, would allow that.

The next topic of discussion was the September event – Lunch by Central Park- that is quickly approaching. Jane reported that we are still working on the electrical issue that we encounter every year and with the help of Hilleri from the Downtown Association we are hoping to have it handled. Dixie is also going to make a contact at the Globe Gazette and see if we could perhaps use what they use for the Barbeque Bash that is coming up. We are also checking into advance publicity and are checking that with Hilleri and the Globe Gazette also.

Presently we have 7 confirmed food vendors for the event as well as some cultural displays. We have a drink vendor in the Girl Scouts but are lacking desserts. There was a discussion of having NIDAT do the desserts and earn some money that way. This will be discussed again in July and hopefully we can come up with a firm plan. It may involve NIDAT members having to donate items so we all need to be thinking of this so the July discussion can be brief and productive.

Linda Woodcock stated that she thinks that NIDAT is missing a good opportunity by not charging vendors a percentage of their intake for the event. She said that the Downtown Association charges vendors for their Thursday Night Live events and they still have vendors. After a brief discussion, it was decided that perhaps conducting a survey after this year's event would allow us to get some feedback from the groups that would be affected and see if this would still allow for us to have a successful event.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10. The next meeting will be July 8, 2009 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux