

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation team met on Wednesday, July 8, 2009 in the second floor conference room at City Hall in Mason City. Those present were: Dan Gapinski, Hilleri Jennings, Joy Drennen, Marshall Huffman, Melissa Weiner, Aimee Kern, Darcy Skellenger, Jack Gannett and Dixie Lamoreux.

In Jane Ginapp's absence, Dan chaired the meeting.

Joy reported that we have a bank balance of \$2169.45. Dan told us that he has just started the process to apply for a grant from the Principal Foundation. In the past we have received \$750 and will again ask for that amount. The deadline for that grant application is September 1 and we wouldn't see the money until after our September event (Lunch by Central Park).

Everyone had been sent a copy of the proposed bylaws and there was some discussion on a couple of things.

- The time for the annual meeting and voting for officers was discussed and the two months that had been offered up as possibilities were April and October. The general consensus seemed to be that October would be a good time. The September event is over and if we elect officers, they can assume their duties in January at the start of a new calendar year.
- Membership along with voting privileges was also discussed briefly. Everyone seems to agree that there should be structure to the voting process; and keeping track of attendance and only allowing those who attend meetings regularly being allowed to vote was very acceptable to everyone.

There will be some more changes made and one more discussion before the by-laws are voted on which will be either September or October.

Everyone is urged to read through the by laws and offer anything they might like changed or at least discussed at the August meeting. If you do not have a copy of the by laws, please notify someone so they can get them to you.

The next topic of discussion was the Lunch by Central Park event coming up in September. Hilleri has the tickets and cans that Main Street Mason City uses for their Friday night live and we can use them. She also has a couple of canopies that we can use. The biggest problem we are facing right now is the electricity issue in Central Park. Hilleri has been dealing with that issue and will be proposing to the city that they purchase 2 spider boxes (cost will be about \$1500) and then they will have them on hand for organizations to rent for events in the park.

The thing we need to know now is how many roasters will be used the day of our event. Crock-pots are no issue but the roasters require more electricity and the park as it is now, just can't handle the extra load.

Hilleri has also offered to assist with getting the word out about our event and will need to get a flier ASAP to get it out to businesses. Hilleri's office is moving from Peterson Plaza to 7 North Federal – directly across from Central Park by August 1. This will make for better access to event held in the park. She has said that if we need to store anything for our event, we can use her space. She suggested that we consider having a booth at the Farmer's Market on a Saturday in August or early September and get information out then also.

Someone suggested that an email be sent out to the NIDAT membership asking if anyone would be willing to step up and have a table at the Annual Night Out Against Crime being held in East Park on August 4th. We did participate in this last year and got one new and very good member for NIDAT.

We also still need NIDAT members who are willing and able to provide some dessert items for sale at the Lunch by Central Park event. There are no other vendors signed up to bring desserts so we can make a little money if we can get people to agree to make items and sell them. Please let us know at the August meeting if you can help with this endeavor.

The cultural displays are still unconfirmed as far as who will be there. Aimee suggested that if they want to have a display that perhaps we can ask that they provide their own tables.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday August 12th at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux