

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met in the basement conference room of City Hall in Mason City on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Those attending were: Marshall Huffman, Joy Drennen, Melissa White, Jane Ginapp, Dan Gapinski, Lahoma Counts, Aimee Kern, Jack Gannett, Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order.

Joy reported that we have a bank balance of \$2172.03. Some of our money will be used to cover costs for the upcoming event – Lunch by Central Park. Jane received notice from the Health Department that all of the vendors for the event will need to get papers allowing them to serve food for the event. Cost for each vendor is over \$30. Being notified at the late date that we were we feel that it is not fair to our vendors to make them pay the fees so NIDAT is covering the cost for this year. That is \$201 total and Joy gave Jane a check to take to the Health Department along with the completed forms. Then we also have the cost of chair and table rentals and that will also be nearly \$200.

The tables will be covered with paper that Dixie is getting from the Globe Gazette and there is no charge for this. Jane received a donation from Martin Brothers and purchased supplies for NIDAT with this donation (\$25).

Hillari Jennings from Main Street Mason City has been very busy with preparations for the River City festival that they are having the same weekend as our Lunch by Central Park and she has graciously included our event in with the publicity for theirs. This is great for NIDAT and gets us so much more awareness. Some of the things she has included us in are:

- Press releases
- Globe Gazette coverage
- Fliers that will be distributed in surrounding communities
- Radio interviews

She has also lined up Bob Bergen for electrical assistance in getting vendors the electricity they need. She has also lined up the transporting of picnic tables and trash barrels. Her office has been relocated to a building across from Central Park and she has canopies and chairs if we need to use them. We will be getting the buckets and tickets from her as well. What a great help!

Joy will line up the cash for the day so we have start up money. Setup will begin at 9 am on the day of the event – September 18<sup>th</sup>. Jane has a list of volunteers that will assist with both set up and take down on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Lahoma has agreed to take pictures during the event.

NIDAT will have a table selling desserts that will be provided by members. Each person donating items need to have them bagged as they are to be sold and marked accordingly. Please keep in mind that all items should be \$1, \$2, etc. We will have no change to give customers.

With all things pretty well in place for this event we moved on to our next topic – the NIDAT by laws. Everyone had received a copy of the by laws and discussions have been held at previous meetings and changes made accordingly. With that Dan made a motion that the new NIDAT By-Laws be accepted as written to take effect on 1-1-2010. Joy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Dan volunteered to make a 2010 calendar of events to remind everyone when certain things need to be done in accordance with the bylaws. The final draft of the bylaws

will be sent to the membership and also be placed on the website. Aimee will do that early next week.

Dan said that the grant to Principal for \$750 toward the Lunch by Central Park event has been submitted. There will be no word on those funds until after the event. In past years when we have received this money and not used all of what was given to us, we just put it in our account and used it for other things. Aimee brought up the fact that many grants come with very tight reins and every penny of the money has to be spent on the specifics of what was written in to the grant. If our expenses do not come to \$750, she feels we need to approach Principal (if we get the grant) and ask if they need the remainder of the money returned to them. There were different thoughts on this subject but it definitely needs to be addressed and a solution determined. It is strictly an auditing thing and we do not want to violate any relationship we have been able to establish with a group such as Principal.

Scott Pardoe (MC postmaster) sent Jane a note that his hours at the post office have been changed to 3am to 11am and he doesn't seem to think that will change any time soon. He still wants to be involved in the ethnic art/writing contest we sponsor in the spring though he probably will not be able to attend meetings. Scott does plan to do the stamp sets for the first place art winners and will be at the Music Man Square on March 4<sup>th</sup> to present the awards. We will definitely keep him informed.

Jane also received an email from Pam Stecker at City Hall saying that mid September the city will have a link on their website to NIDAT. The city website is [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net).

The meeting adjourned about 5pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux