

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team (NIDAT) met at 4 pm on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 in the 2nd floor conference room at City Hall in Mason City. Those present were: Dan Gapinski, Diane Murphy, Joy Drennen, Hilleri Jennings, Mark Mathre, Jane Ginapp, Jason Semprini, Melissa Weiner, Elaine Olson, Barry Ter Hark, Erin Meyer, Lahoma Counts and Dixie Lamoreux.

Jane called the meeting to order. In the new by-laws for NIDAT a quorum is required to conduct any business and vote on it. A quorum consists of at least one co-chair and 4 other voting members. To be a voting member one must have been present at a minimum of six meetings during the last 12 months. The attendance roster was checked and this criteria was met so Dan made the motion to accept the March minutes as written and Joy seconded the motion. After the vote, the motion was carried and the minutes approved as written.

Jane told everyone that she has a recording that KCMR made of the winners from the art and essay contest that was held in March. The winners were all invited to KCMR and read essays and discussed the art work on the air. Anyone wishing to listen to the recording should contact Jane.

Joy reported that after income and expenses from the Embracing Diversity Art and Essay contest was taken into account, our bank balance is now \$1851.00.

Dan reported for the steering and executive committees. The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting and discussed a few issues. Notes from that meeting are at the end of these minutes.

Jason Semprini is a summer intern for Iowa Legal Aid and has offered his services to assist NIDAT with some projects. He will be working with Barry TerHark on the Service Directory. To date only the Cerro Gordo Directory is done and he will be working on some of the surrounding counties for us. Barry will be a great resource for him and he will also be getting some information from Elderbridge as they have some information that he will use from other counties.

Dan mentioned that another part of the Networking/Partnering subcommittee is recruitment and this will be something we want to focus on for the near future. Barry agreed to remain on this committee.

One subcommittee that is not presently in place and we will be looking to forming is a Development Committee which will assist by submitting grants on behalf of NIDAT. So we need to know if there is anyone who has an interest or can just share their knowledge and assist with this. If you are interested, please let Jane, Joy, Dan or Dixie know. Elaine stated that she has a list of small grants that we may be eligible to apply for and will share that list with us. We are presently not looking for large grants so this could be in our favor.

April is also the month to begin thinking of persons to replace those elected positions that are up for election in October. We need to have a slate of officers in place by September so the vote can be held in October. Jane (co-chair) and Dixie (secretary) both hold positions that are up this year. Nominees for these positions will be solicited during the upcoming months.

Dan also reported that the Principal Foundation Grant that we apply for annually has an earlier deadline for applications (June 1). He has pretty much got things all lined up and meeting the deadline will not be an issue. This could be good for NIDAT if we get the grant we should have the money before the Lunch by the Park event. In the past we always received the money after the event.

Hillari is the Director of Main Street Mason City and she reported that they will not be hosting the annual Great River City Festival in September due to the facelift project that will start June 1 and run through November. Some of the other events they sponsor have been relocated for this year. After some discussion, it was pretty much decided that NIDAT will be checking into the possibility of having the Lunch by Central Park in the city parking lot west of City Hall. There is some limited electricity in the lot and approval will need to be sought from the city, city council, local police, etc. To start with, Hillari will check with Randy Thomas (city electrician) on the electricity, Melissa Weiner will check with the city, and Jane and Elaine will check with the police regarding what we will need to do. The idea of keeping our event in the area where it is usually held is good and with our event growing and becoming more popular each year, we really don't want to give it up without exploring other possibilities first. This topic will definitely be discussed and hopefully we will have some options by the May meeting.

Mark Mathre from Cerro Gordo County Public Health was asked to attend this meeting to discuss the issues with licensing the vendors for our luncheon. Individual licenses are \$33.50 but there is a possibility of just purchasing one license and operating under just the one for this small event lasting just a few hours. He did say that it will need to be discussed within their department but we are hopeful this can work for us.

One last topic that Jane brought up was regarding an email she received from Robin Anderson with the Chamber of Commerce. It is in regards to a television show that HBO is looking to produce – a documentary. A couple of locals, one a council member and one a citizen of Mason City have been vocal on issues of political types. NIDAT is not a political organization and we are not looking to become one. Jane was just letting us all know that there is always the possibility that we could be contacted and asked to make statements. These statements are often twisted and taken out of context so she just wants us all to be aware. For more information on this documentary there is a website at www.howdemocracyworksnow.com that you can check out. Click on Story 1.

Before adjourning, Dan reported that Principal has now added a link to NIDAT on their website. Also he has access to a small display case inside Principal for displaying items related to diversity so if there are things we want him to display this is a possibility.

With no further business, Elaine made a motion to adjourn and Dixie seconded the motion. After a vote, the meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Next meeting will be on May 12th at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dixie Lamoreux

Notes of topics discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting held at 3 pm on April 14, 2010.

Note taking is not required at these meetings as no business can be conducted. Items discussed included the following

- A letter from Marshall Huffman that Jane received was noted. Marshall will no longer be an active member of NIDAT and is concentrating on a couple of other committees that he is a part of.
- The membership roster was reviewed. We presently have a list of active members and a list of members who are associates or Friends of NIDAT. Jane will be updating this list and getting it to Dan to be included with grant information.
- The report with the 2009 accomplishments of NIDAT is also a requirement of the grant information and Jane has that all updated as it was included with the information she presented to the City Council in February.
- A list of committee memberships is also needed and we will be checking the minutes from past meeting to gather that information.
- A committee that is not presently in existence that we will be looking into forming is a development committee. This committee of individuals will hopefully be able to secure some funding for events sponsored by NIDAT.
- The Networking/Partnership committee will hopefully be taking on the responsibility of recruitment for NIDAT.
- April is the month to start the nomination process for filling the positions of co-chair now occupied by Jane and the secretary position that Dixie presently has. Both of these are up for election in October.
- NIDAT will also be preparing its first annual budget in September. It should not be a real complicated procedure, but will consist of two columns - Current for 2010 and projected for 2011.
- Date for the application for the Principal Foundation Grant has been changed to June 1st this year.