

Minutes 1-12-2022
North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met in the big room of the Mason City Public Library and also Zoomed virtually on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Diane Murphy, Dede Maloy and April Concepcion. LeAnne Clausen de Montes, Jack Gannett and Jane Ginapp joined via Zoom.

Bill called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm. It was determined that we had a quorum.

December 8 minutes: Diane made the motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Dede. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The balance remains at \$8,388.96. No changes from last month.

Website and Facebook update: Website is seeing agenda and minutes uploaded. No further updates.

Art/Writing Contest

Bill picked up hard copy posters from Erica. Dede will take copies to hand out to the different counties she has school contacts with. Diane will check in with Erica on which schools has gotten these materials.

For the status on the judges, Diane will also follow up with Erica on it. Historically, judges have writing and have art backgrounds. Most who did judging for the contests were teachers or newspaper folks.

With challenges brought by Covid-19, the group is hearing from teachers, if the contest could be moved to a Spring schedule. Once the event concludes, the group will reassess to be able to accommodate the teachers and have a win-win for participation and overall success for everyone. The current schedule is part of celebrating MLK Day and continuing to highlight diversity and inclusion.

Old Business -

Iowa Council of Native American Affairs – The group is pleased with the direction this is moving even if there is an opposing view among the members of the community. Jack has written a personal thank you that he wanted to give to the board but has not been able to hand deliver it yet.

The counter protest to keep the mascot and name is aligning with the banned books in the library. There is momentum and creating traction; and may create some tension in the community.

Immigrant Population Welcome Initiative:

Bill will invite Nancy with LSI for a brief introduction and give the group insight on how to help with efforts of having new immigrants in the community. Bill plans to set up in March so it doesn't interfere with the focus on Art and Writing contest.

MLK and Christian Unity Day: The pandemic and the resurgence of cases has made plans for these to either get canceled, postponed or moved virtually.

Ethnic Lunch -

Bill tried to touch base with Emily. The plan is to tentatively go back to the third Friday of September to get it in the calendar of events with Main Street Mason City. He has left a voice mail with Emily, he will keep trying to make contact and set up a meeting. A vendor has contacted the group to inquire and make mention of their interest to participate once again for the Ethnic Lunch being planned for 2022.

New Business - no new business was presented.

Bill called the meeting to adjourn. Motion was made by Diane and seconded by Jane. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Concepcion