

To the Friends of the 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, July 14, 2021. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Erica McBride, Jack Gannet, Dede Maloy, LeAnne Clausen de Montes and April Concepcion. There was no one who joined in Zoom. Bill called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm. It was determined that we had a quorum.

**June 9 minutes:** Dede made the motion to accept and approve the minutes as written and seconded by April. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report was given. The group will get an update when Diane has a Treasurer's report.

**Website and Facebook update:** FB – no update. The monthly agenda and minutes are being posted on the website monthly.

### **Art/Writing Contest**

NIACC is finished producing the media content. There is some concerns with submissions not included in the video. Will be looking into it. Websites for NIACC and NIDAT will mention the link so students and their family can see the video.

This is a good try to do virtual submissions. Next time the group should consider the submissions can be put together in an album in FB. This would have more advertising impact. In the current state of the pandemic, the group has an understanding and experience of planning the contest for next year. With going back to "normal", there is a possibility to plan digital submissions for its efficiency and do an in-person awards ceremony to commemorate submissions and winners of the different categories.

### **Old Business -**

#### **Ethnic Lunch at the Park**

There were only the four vendors who confirmed with Bill to participate. Three were food vendors and one for beverage-only sale. The group felt it was on the low end of participation from food vendors and feared cancellation at the last minute will cause the vendors unnecessary costs. There were also concerns with Covid-19 delta variant spreading and handling a big crowd and what guidelines would need to be followed. After much deliberation, it was put into a vote to cancel the ethnic lunch that was being planned for September 17, 2021. April made the motion to cancel the event and LeeAnne seconded. The motion passed. A statement will be put out to announce the cancellation.

### National Night Out – recap

Diane and Bill set up with NIDAT brochures and give-away items. They were able to give out much of these materials they brought with them with huge attendance being seen in the arena. They have seen booths that ran out of handouts leaving early. Quite a successful attendance to represent NIDAT. will respond to the invitation to set-up a table for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will represent NIDAT and advertise the upcoming event for Lunch at the Park. The plan is to use some of the give-away items and check its inventory since there hasn't been an event to put these out.

### New Business -

Grant funds – the group discussed to make sure grant writing resumes to be on top of these. Bill with check with Dan for guidance on grant writing to secure us funds for activities for 2022.

#### Community Events:

- Block Party Community Health Center – August 12<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. NIDAT did not have time to be present for this block party to set up a table.
- Comic Book Day – August 13<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 with Oak Leaf at Federal Avenue.

### Explore Ethnic Lunch on a Saturday

Historically on a Friday (3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday in September)	2022 - What If?
<p>Part of the Renaissance event with Main Street Mason City, with events happening from Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Ethnic Lunch at the Park and Historical Building Tour, etc.</p> <p>Park tables/chairs and electrical equipment can be borrowed and returned by city staff on a workday.</p> <p>Organic participants – local businesses on a lunch break and attract visitors to Main Street.</p> <p>Lunch only – 10:30 food vendors set up and get inspected by CG Public Health, and sell until 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Use a larger park and invite more food trucks and booths.</p> <p>Not just a lunch event – allow more hours for socializing.</p> <p>Capitalize on foreign students and workers in the area to highlight diversity in the community.</p> <p>Saturday may draw more attendance, not restricted to a workday crowd.</p>

## Immigrant Population

Class size class ESL shows a high count immigrants in the area. Can NIDAT's role be?

- Resource or ambassadorship from NIDAT to welcome newcomers.
- Organize a potluck to gather and offer an opportunity for immigrants to get to know the community and connect with resources. Have speakers or informational presentations.
- NIDAT connects back to the City/Chamber on what the welcome wagon is for anyone new to the area. Example used – in early 2000, then Mayor Erb of Charles City welcomed immigrants.

Needs to be explored with the state getting ready to receive refugees. Bill will check with Emily on city protocol.

## MLK Prayer Service

LeAnne and other leaders of faith have plans to do a day of Prayer for Christian Community. More details closer to MLK Day.

Bill called the meeting to adjourn. Motion was made by Jack and seconded by LeAnne. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
April Concepcion