

Minutes August 12, 2020

To the Friends of the North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team:

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met virtually using Zoom on Wednesday, August 12, 2020. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Jane Ginapp, Diane Murphy, Pastor LeAnne Clausen de Montes, Pam Johnson, Kris Urdahl, Erica McBride, Terry Harrison, Jack Gannett and April Concepcion.

Jane called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm. It was determined that we had a quorum.

July 8 minutes: Diane made the motion to accept and approve the minutes with the correction that the balance for funds reflect the current statement which is \$9,161.89. Pam made the second motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Correct balance is \$9,161.89.

Website and Facebook update: Agenda and minutes are being posted in the NIDAT website to update members who aren't present in the virtual meetings.

Ethnic Lunch: Jane updated the group about the media announcement made to publish the cancellation of this year's Ethnic Lunch at the Park.

Community Projects by Rev. Le Anne Clausen de Montes

1. Historical neighborhoods of Mason City

Phase 1: community support, get information pooled using source materials from the Library, FB page or dialog/interviews, if possible, this could be recorded so it is easily archived.

Phase 2: neighborhoods like North End (Lehigh Row area) and 6th Street SW (Powder Street area) – history of who built what, and the where the workers came from and settled in which areas of Mason City. Areas known as Powder Street, brick/tile and quarry workers and their “origin” stories.

Phase 3: collect focused data from archives, identify structures still present and acquire photos to establish a route for a possible walking tour/path. This will be the structure for a virtual tour to highlight historical points of interests.

Phase 4: funding for markers and signs to record the historical significance of the sites.

Jane has a 2011 booklet published by the Globe about Mason City through its neighborhoods. She plans to browse through it and look for landmarks that still exist.

Terry mentioned Helen Karamitros and a masters thesis she wrote about the different cultures and neighborhoods.

2. St. John's Baptist Church Restoration

This church is a historic black congregation. In need of fund for repairs and manual labor to clean up and winterize to mitigate costs for its restoration and give life to the efforts by it's organizers.

Ideas: make a day of volunteer work and pitch in labor to mow, pick up/gather debris on the property. Help organize weekly mowing and snow removal afterwards; create/assist crowd-funding or get grants for the more expensive fixes like the plumbing or electrical. When these activities and fund raising efforts have a schedule, get a meter or measure like a gauge to help showcase where the monies lie to it's goal of raising around \$100,000.

At the moment, if NIDAT can provide a letter of support to the St. John's restoration would greatly assist with it's project to lift off the ground.

With great apology, Terry's comments and share was not heard very clearly and was not covered as well in the minutes.

Old/New Business:

Bill has checked with the library director Mary, to see if the group can use the big room. It will be possible, if the meeting were to start at 5p.m. instead of 4:30. However, the pandemic is in the minds of the members, and most are comfortable with the virtual meeting vs. the face-to-face meeting.

Jack suggested we may be able to do some version of the art/writing contest with NIACC's support. Jane will contact Katie Koehler for her thoughts and see if she is able to attend the next meeting.

Hispanic Group – around 6 people are hoping to form a group, brought forth by an inquiry to Rev. Le Anne, it was made by Angelina Perez asking if there is a group in Mason City organized by Spanish-speaking residents. In Hampton, there is a group known as La Luz that offers community help with resources and cultural events.

NIACC - Volunteer Fair organized by NIACC is on hold due to the pandemic. There are life-learning groups/classes being offered via Zoom.

The meeting was called to adjourn by Jane and motion was made by Rev. Le Anne and seconded by Jack Motion passed and meeting ended at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

April Concepcion