

Minutes July 13, 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, July 13, 2022. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Diane Murphy, Jane Ginapp, Dede Maloy, LeAnne Clausen de Montes, Cassidy Flory and April Concepcion. Jack Gannet and Trish with Smith Field joined via Zoom.

Bill called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm. It was determined that we had a quorum.

June 8 minutes: LeAnne made the motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Diane. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The balance begging June 1st was at \$8,126.82. There were checks cashed and bank charges of \$275.65 that were deducted from the account and left the ending balance of \$7,851.17 for end of June. Diane will follow up on the checks still not cashed.

Website and Facebook update: Website is seeing agenda and minutes uploaded. An advertisement to mention to the public that the group is still looking for additional ethnic food vendors or cultural display is still needed to fill out the street on both sides. LeAnne will draft an announcement for external advertisement online.

Art/Writing Contest

Video link was uploaded. Erica was not present in the meeting to add more to this agenda item.

Old Business -

Ethnic Lunch – Bill has sent over e-mails to confirm with vendors and cultural display contacts to get a count of participants. We have a beverage vendor and three ethnic food vendors. One church group is yet to meet with members to confirm their participation. Some vendors who have participated before are deciding not to join ethnic lunch to give themselves a break from being involved with Mason City RAGBRAI. It was decided to make announcements and advertising to get more ethnic vendors that would offer a variety of food and cultural displays along Federal Street Central Park that will serve as the venue for this event.

Bill tried Cucho's contact information but has not heard back. Cucho perform with his flutes a few years back and offered music/entertainment during the lunch event.

Food trucks from the car show will be contacted by Bill to see if there is interest to join the vendor line up. Another food truck is El Sabor that the group is eager to get in touch if there is interest to sell during ethnic lunch.

Cultural Display – Sabrina who is the NIACC contact has not responded back to the inquiries made by members. Mark with Genealogy is interested.

Ashley Heffern is not the contact for International Students and contact has halted. The group will ask Erica's help to find a contact for the group for NIACC to see how we can get some students to participate.

Advertisement – The additional advertisement to get the attention of vendors and those willing to do a cultural display will have a deadline to get touch with Bill by August 15th. This is to allow time for Food License with Cerro Gordo Public Health to be submitted and processed to not overlap the food variety/ethnicity and double up on the same menu.

Jane has reached out to Emily to get an idea if the tents and other supplies are still available to borrow for Ethnic Lunch. Since there was no response, members in attendance offered their pop-up tents to make sure there are tents available for September 16th to sell tokens.

Community Awards - These will not be rebooted for this year's Ethnic Lunch. The lunch was a venue to award a community member and an organization, this will be deferred to another year.

Vote for Best Food Vendor – The group decided to reboot this voting by lunch-goers to cast a quick vote which vendor/food they enjoyed the most. This contest was done in 2018 and then the pandemic canceled the next few Ethnic Lunch events until now. The hope is to get potential vendors excited to ask details from Bill and sell food to add the the slim line-up.

Immigration - Not much to update. There are two areas in Des Moines that LSI is well-established and plenty of resources according to an LSI presentation that Diane was able to attend recently.

The group had baby-steps approach of potluck welcome and not get too heavily entrenched with lacking resources and support. NIDAT will continue to explore how to help and welcome refugees.

New Business - LeAnne made an announcement about Mason City Pride at the Kiwanis Shelter in East Park. It will be July 16th, with an informal reunion atmosphere. There will be beverage and potluck, maybe an open-mic if there is interest.

August 13 – Celebration of Black Joy will happen at East Park at Prairie Hill. This date also happens to be Emmett Till's birthday.

The Zoom time has exceeded it's limit and the members participating were not able to finish the rest of the in-person discussion.

Cassidy Flory with CG Public Health joined the meeting and did introductions with the rest of the group and had wanted to be included in future meetings and discussions. Dede will touch base with Trish, who was available via Zoom but did not have a mic to do introductions. Bill called the meeting to adjourn. Motion was made by LeAnne and seconded by Dede. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Concepcion