

Minutes February 8, 2023
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, February 8, 2023. Those in attendance were Erica McBride, Diane Murphy, and April Concepcion. LeAnne Clausen de Montes, Dede Maloy and Burton Everist joined via Zoom.

Erica called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm. It was determined that we had a quorum.

December 12 minutes: Diane made the motion to accept the December minutes. LeAnne seconded and the motion passed. The January meeting was canceled. An e-mail was sent out to inform members of what was currently in the works.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance is at \$7,480.35.

Website and Facebook update: Website is seeing agenda and minutes uploaded.

Old Business -

Art and Writing – Deadline of submission was February 7th. Dede inquired if the deadline could be extended to give a grace period for other schools with no submission. There was no submission from MC schools, majority was sent from Newman and then sporadic numbers from other schools. The group discussed and decided on a motion from Erica to keep the deadline as is; and seconded by LeAnne. The motion passed.

Action points to increase the number of participation is to advertise and include FB as another advertising tool; keep sending the contest e-mails early to the superintendents, guidance counselors and Art teachers.

Erica will get in touch with Mara Ouverson (NIACC) to proceed with the judging phase of the contest to move the process along. At last count, there were 35 entries for Art and 32 entries for Writing.

Once judges are identified and rubric for judging is established, the next phase is the awards.

Immigration – LeAnne heard from a Clear Lake speaker about 2 programs for immigration support. One was for sponsoring a refugee group and the other from WelcomeCorps.

There is information and steps on how to get the process moving forward with an application, raising funds and community/group commitment. The cost is around \$2275 per refugee and a 90-day commitment to get a refugee settled in and employment is secured.

The timeline could be a few weeks from application and review, then a refugee could come through a few months after. These are for refugees who are approved to enter the states and are waiting at a refugee camp to get processed through.

Some ideas for housing are churches with parsonages, working with landlords who are willing to rent out to a family.

Expect an e-mail from LeAnne with information from WelcomeCorps to keep the discussion going.

Ethnic Lunch – Will wait when Bill is back to get the groundwork started.

New Business – Diane got an e-mail on an event by Central Gardens. Please expect an e-mail and send a response back to D on your thoughts on participation. The topic will be discussed in our March meeting.

Burton Everist shared that that First United Congregational Church of Christ was exploring a program to celebrate MLK Jr. Their church is willing to hold this event up to the end of February. The program may entail an introduction, the speech, and group discussion of where do we go from here. Reach out to Burton if interested.

NIDAT is willing to advertise this program.

Erica called the meeting to adjourn with a motion. Diane seconded. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Concepcion