

Minutes March 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, March 8, 2023. Those in attendance were Erica McBride, Bill Orozco, Krista Ditsworth, and April Concepcion. Diane Murphy, LeAnne Clausen de Montes, and Dede Maloy joined via Zoom.

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

February 8 minutes: Diane made the motion to accept the February. Dede seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance as of February remains at \$7,480.35.

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

Old Business -

Art and Writing – Erica and Mara met on March 7th. There were 35 entries for Art and 32 entries for Writing. Most entries came from Newman's 4th grade and sophomores from Lake Mills. It makes a difference if the contest is part of class activity.

Begin organizing the entries to be anonymous for judging, There will be 3 Art and 3 Writing Judges to be contacted. So far, one judge has agreed and the rest awaiting their response, Looking to get done by early April. Judges are local individuals with some ties to NIACC and local school district.

Rubrics to follow. To keep it simple, to pick the top 3 from each category. Levels are K-5th Grade, 6th to 8th Grade, and High School – College level. If there is a tie, Mara and Erica to work on.

All submitted entries have an acknowledgment e-mail; that takes care of the terms of the contest. Also clears the path to request videos from contest winners.

NIACC has a program – This I Believe that might be a good fit to consolidate with the contest for next. It is in the early planning process.

Erica will send Diane the list of e-mail entries to make it easier to build the spreadsheet to contact the students.

By June/July, Erica and Mara plan to meet to start planning 2024 contest.

Immigration – LeAnne recalled Katie Koehler's e-mail on the School District being aware of the WelcomeCorps and the interest was a good indication that the discussion is present and there is local support. It is a matter of partnering with groups and individuals to keep going. LeAnne's Zoom reception got spotty and she will follow-up on a separate e-mail for next month's discussion.

Ethnic Lunch – Bill has updated the shell for forms to contact vendors and start planning with Mason City Main Street. The event is scheduled for September 15th, third Friday of the month. This will be N Federal Avenue and 1st Street NE.

The previous year's vendors will be contacted first, and without a big event like RAGBRAI, the group is hopeful they will make a comeback. Bill plans to get the letters to the vendor out and have a deadline to respond by May 1st and give the group time to re-asses if more vendors need to be contacted.

Krista with NIACC will get the word out early to international students to gauge if there is interest and can work around the schedule to do cultural exhibits.

New Business – None.

Bill called the meeting to adjourn with a motion from Diane, this was seconded by Dede. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Concepcion