

Minutes April 12, 2023
North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met in the study room of the Mason City Public Library and also Zoomed virtually on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Those in attendance were Erica McBride, Bill Orozco, Diane Murphy, Laura Frey, and April Concepcion. LeAnne Clausen de Montes joined via Zoom.

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

March 8 minutes: Diane made the motion to accept the March. LeAnne seconded and the motion passed.

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

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

Old Business -

Art and Writing – Entries for Art and Writing were sent to judges. The deadline for results in a couple of weeks. Information gathering in the works to come up with content for awarding the winners.

Immigration – City Hall staff has shown interest in the group's progress with immigration discussion. LeAnne will send note to the group e-mail when there is a date and time for a community meeting. The hope is to get members to signify who has interest in helping and with which aspect. There is enthusiasm from school districts as well as the different faith groups. The meeting is likely at UCC in an evening.

Ethnic Lunch – Schedule stays the same for 3rd Friday of September. The ethnic lunch is on Main Street Mason City's calendar of events on September 15th.

Bill has heard back and has confirmation from 3 vendors. He will contact and remind previous vendors before broadening the invitation to bulk up the number of food varieties to be offered by different ethnic groups. The original contacts have until May 1st to respond to Bill. The goal is to get 8 vendors this year.

A church group vendor had asked for attendance on how the event turned out last year. Unfortunately, there were not a lot of pictures taken to reference. The group's consensus was a high turn out with sales payout coming to \$4,027. This is an average amount from other years. Diane presented numbers from 2013 to present on number of vendors and payout dollars. Since 2013 to present the highest shows up to 12 vendors and fluctuates yearly. For the payout on sales, it has been increasing from around \$3,500 to a high of almost \$6K with a bit of a drop the next year after the high point.

The group is interested in trying to make an event to lead to the weekend; a Saturday and Sunday tie-in for other community groups to do their events. There is a lot of legwork to pull off the ethnic lunch and the group will discuss if removing the tokens as a currency will lighten the load of the members and volunteers.

To drum up interest for ethnic lunch, the members will gather the pictures taken to be added to the website and FB page to get it advertised early. Main Street Mason City have it already on their 2022-2023 look back and look ahead material.

The group hopes Krista with NIACC have gotten the word out to international students, so there are cultural exhibits that will be available this year.

Bill is set to meet with Lindsey James on April 18th at 10. He has extended the meeting with members to join him should they have time too.

New Business – MLK Black History Month Celebration was held at UCC. Quite well attended and held recognition to local members who represented being a first on their profession as living history makers or as a legacy on the merits of their achievements. There was also an In Memoriam to remember and honor those who were not recognized in person but had family members who were in attendance.

The planning committee who were the small group of community leaders, who pulled off the event is already considering making this an annual event around the MLK day weekend. This is quite an accomplishment from starting as a 1619 book club project.

The group is meeting on May 1st at 10 a.m. If anyone is interested with planning the next celebration, contact LeAnne.

There is interest to do an essay writing contest. Would this work to combine the Art and Writing with the MLK group's? The group will explore and discuss more as there are opportunities to scaling more submissions if the Youth Center is another avenue to get more students aware of the contests. There is the distinction of how the contest will be centered around pure MLK vs. diversity as another discussion point.

Bill called the meeting to adjourn with a motion from LeAnne, this was seconded by Diane. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Concepcion