

Minutes July 12, 2023
North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team

The North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team met in the big room of the Mason City Public Library and Zoomed virtually on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Erica McBride, Diane Murphy, Laura Frey, and April Concepcion, Fr. Nicholas March and Evangelia March. No one joined via Zoom.

Bill called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm. It was determined that we had a quorum.

May 10 minutes: Diane made the motion to accept the May minutes. Erica seconded, and the motion passed. June meeting did not have a quorum.

Treasurer's Report: The balance as of June 1st started at \$7,480.35. There were deductions from winners of Art and Writing Contest for their prizes, stamps and bank charge that totaled \$639.37. The balance is \$6,840.98. There are still two checks for winners that have not been cashed. Diane will follow up if it remains uncashed. Bill called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. April motioned to accept, and Laura seconded. The motion passed.

Website and Facebook update: Website is seeing agenda and minutes uploaded. June update was also added to keep members informed of the table discussion.

Old Business -

Art and Writing – Erica updated that the contest is wrapping up. Diane received a contest winner video for content for the virtual award ceremony. She and Erica will follow up with other winners to find out if anyone will still submit a video of their work. If no more submissions are coming in, the plan is to check back with the sole content author to get their permission to publish their video.

Erica and Mara will set a time to discuss at NIACC; and refine the process to prepare for the 2024 contest year.

Immigration – No update.

Ethnic Lunch – The group welcomed Fr. Nicholas and Evangelia March. The couple were representatives from the Greek Orthodox church. After introductions were made around the table from attendees, further Q and A were discussed because of the interest in being part of the ethnic lunch. Bill was able to give them a packet to review what needs to be filled out, including the information for the temporary food license that vendors would need to follow. Some vendors might get contacted by the March's. They are eager to get further information on food vending, developing a menu and set-up. This is so they can be ready to make a good presentation to their parish board and get the approval to participate at ethnic lunch. Bill updated the group that 8 vendors have confirmed. Greek Orthodox Church will be a good addition bringing us to 9. This will give great variety to the ethnic line-up for this year. They were also invited to do a cultural display if there is an opportunity to have one.

Parks and Rec and City Hall have been contacted for the use of park benches and road closure. Bill would like all food license forms to be ready by mid-August to be submitted to

Cerro Gordo Public Health. He is willing to pick up the forms from vendors vs. having it mailed and get delayed in compiling them for submission.

The final menu from vendors will also get the poster ready for advertising. The group agreed that social media and Main Street Mason City's efforts were very successful to advertise the event last year. Diane did a radio ad last year. These are likely the same media platforms that will be used this year to make sure the turnout is high.

New Business – National Night Out. The group members will try to find out who knows to get hold of who, to get information on the venue. This event is scheduled to be on August 1st; and there are plenty of NIDAT materials to be handed out. When all information is in, it will be taken up next meeting to decide who will be available to represent NIDAT, should the group decide to have a table.

Bill called the meeting to adjourn with a motion from Diane, this was seconded by Laura. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Concepcion