

Minutes October 11, 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, October 11, 2023. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Erica McBride, Laura Frey, Krista Ditsworth and April Concepcion. We were joined via Zoom by Rev. Le Anne Clausen de Montes.

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

**September 13 minutes:** Laura made the motion to accept the September minutes. Krista seconded, and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance as of September 1<sup>st</sup> started at \$6,515.34. There were checks wrote out for vendors during Ethnic Lunch, and all these were cleared. The ending balance after a bank charge is \$6,225.47 as of September 30. Bill asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report. April motioned to accept, and this was seconded by Laura. The motion passed.

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

### **Old Business**

#### **Art and Writing–**

Erica updated the group that she just met Common Read group earlier in the day. Going forward to mesh with the NIDAT Arts and Writing contest. Once the Common Read is known, pivot when it is not a fit with the goals of the contest.

The awards ceremony date is being set for March 26<sup>th</sup> from 3-5 p.m. at the NIACC Auditorium. With a date and venue in place, it will be easier to work backwards. Plan to keep the contest the same but will be a hybrid with the Common Read.

Erica plans to work with Mara soon to look at and review flyers.

**Immigration** –No firm date when to meet. There should be a plan in place once the school board election is concluded.

**Ethnic Lunch** – quite a few people were out in support of the vendors. Healthy Harvest was not able to attend. All the other 8 vendors that signed up were present and made the best of the weather.

The alternative school students who volunteered to help with set up and tear down were very helpful.

NIDAT paid out (wrote checks totaling) \$3949. This is among the highest amount from the event as far as money paid out to vendors.

At Farmer's Market the next day, September 16<sup>th</sup>, Lindsay James presented Filipino Foodie with a certificate as winners for the Favorite Food Vendor from Ethnic Lunch.

Bill will be sending out Thank You cards to volunteers and vendors to show appreciation from NIDAT group.

Plans for next year:

- Keep the date as 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September or tie it with Main Street's Friday Night Live and emphasize lunch?
- Can always tie or be the start of a Friday-Saturday-Sunday event as it used to be several years ago. Latino Festival is held on a Sunday.
- Send a save the date with vendors so it is early to determine how many are going to sign up for the event for next year.
- Weigh pros and cons – check with Main Street and vendors if it is feasible.
- Why plan so early? North Iowa Voices has planned their dates for 2024. This is the same for Main Street.
- Flyers to be improved and emphasize tokens as the method of payment.
- Pivot to accept credit cards at the tokens tent? Bill will check if the bank has options for accepting credit card payment.
- Is Music Man Square a viable plan B if weather is bad? How about Main Street vendors that are not open in the morning?
- Are there umbrellas for picnic tables for shelter?

**New Business –**

Plan to digitize records into a flash drive will need to set a time/date to tackle the project.  
Review term limits of the current officers.

Bill called the meeting to adjourn with a motion from Laura, this was seconded by Le Anne. The motion passed. The meeting ended at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
April Concepcion