

To the Friends of the 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 13, 2024. Those in attendance were Bill Orozco, Krista Ditsworth, and Diane Murphy. Rev. Le Anne Clausen de Montes joined via Zoom.

Bill called the meeting to order at 4:49pm. It was determined that we do not have a quorum.

**February 14th minutes:** Cannot approve due to lack of quorum.

**Treasurer's Report:** Account activity is still the same, \$6,225.47.

**Website and Facebook update:** Diane renewed our domain name for another 2 years. Not much activity on Facebook.

**Old Business:**

### **Art and Writing**

Erica is not able to join us today, so we will discuss more next month. "This I Believe" event is April 11, 2024 at 7pm at NIACC. Erica sent an email earlier looking for judges. Diane and Bill will reach out to a few people and connect them with Erica.

### **Immigration**

Le Anne has met with groups about the Welcome Corps program to welcome refugees. She will ask the Chamber to bring employers together to share information about how to employ/sponsor refugees. The next step is to get churches to sign up to form sponsorship teams. The goal is to bring groups of refugees by the next school year.

Micronesian population continues to grow. Le Anne is working with the pastor regarding their building basement that had flooded. Thinking through how to get them established in our community.

At 6<sup>th</sup> St. SW and Monroe St. there is a new family from India who took over the gas station and mart. She working to connect them with others in the community and make them feel welcome. They are looking for someone to take over the kitchen.

Tyson plant in Perry is closing, 2000 jobs and many are immigrants losing their jobs. Chamber and Sharon Steckman are helping to look into how we could get some of those people to relocate to Mason City.

### **Ethnic Lunch**

Bill has updated the letters to vendors. We hope to have a max of 10 vendors due to space and permit tiers. Bill will reach out to a few new vendors to make sure we have enough. Bill will touch base before April with Parks and Rec as a reminder of the event. It is scheduled Friday, September 20, 2024.

**Officers for 2024**

We are still looking for a co-chair to lead with Erica. Duties include sending out agenda and calling the meeting to order, every second Tuesday of the month. The position is a two-year term and alternates to the other co-chair for another two year. If anyone wishes to consider the vacant co-chair position, please contact Bill or Erica.

We are also looking for someone to take over updating our website and Facebook. If anyone is interested, please contact Bill or Erica.

**New Business:**

None.

**Announcement:**

None.

The meeting ended at 5:12 p.m.