

Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm in Conference Room C at Troy City Hall

Roll Call

Present: Kelly Gu Tom Kaszubski
Lulu Guo Reuben Ellis
Michelle Haight Padma Kuppa
Anju Brodbine
Malini Sarma (7:50 pm)
Oniell Shah (8:15p)
Cindy Stewart, Staff Liaison

Absent: Amin Hashmi Mark Pritzlaff

Motion to excuse absent members by A. Brodbine, Second by M. Haight.
Approved unanimously

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from September 6, 2005 – Motion by A. Brodbine, second by M. Haight.
Approved unanimously.

New Members

Welcome to Reuben Ellis, new member

Correspondence/Articles

Padme Kuppa's article on Native American Indians was in Nov. Metro Parent.

Old Business

a. NCCJ – Local businessman offering to support proposal from NCCJ. He will be back in country mid Nov. and give us an answer by end Nov. 2005.

Schools very excited to be partners. Padma expressed interest in being in the negotiations – cost seems higher than D. Williamson's presentation. Does district have any staff development training on diversity? Tim will check. Could be offered but not taken. Hamilton Elementary has done a lot of programs on diversity (calendar).

NCCJ had videos on diversity for students – would be willing to loan them. Possible for schools to view these at an assembly?

b. EIAB – Mission/Goals

Current Mission Statement – The City of Troy Ethnic Issues Advisory Board promotes an environment enriched by harmonious relationships and open communication within our diverse community through education and multicultural exchange.

Discussion: Do we need more active verb than “promotes”

Implement – too strong

Further enhance – know we’re reaching for a goal, but can do more.

Revised Mission Statement:

“The City of Troy Ethnic Issues Advisory Board further enriches harmonious relationships and open communication in our diverse community through education and multicultural exchange.”

Motion by P Kuppa second by M. Haight to change mission statement.

Approved unanimously.

Discussion on reasons people from all cultures choose to come to Troy.

Excellent education, Clean City, Safe City. We need to try and break down the misconceptions. People tend to settle in groups. Ex. Italians - Sterling Heights & Warren, Polish – Hamtramack and Middle Eastern – Dearborn.

How do we get more people at Sights and Sounds events?

Sad that people just don’t care about learning about other cultures.

In today’s economy you have to market to adolescent girls (10 – 14) according to former executive for marketing at Walt Disney. They determine where the family goes.

New Business

a. New Member appointment process. Board proposes the following:

DRAFT – November 7th 2005

Process for Recommendation of New Ethnic Issues Advisory Board Members to City Council

The City of Troy Ethnic Issue Advisory (E.I.A.) Board members are appointed and sit at the pleasure of the Troy City Council. From time to time, openings are created on the committee and the current advisory board members would

like to continue to propose well-qualified candidates to the council. This process is created to formalize the review of possible candidates, outline candidate criteria, and to provide information to individuals who would like to be reviewed as possible candidates.

Process:

Upon confirmation of an opening on the E.I.A. Board:

- The Advisory Board chairman will announce the opening at the next Advisory Board meeting.
- The Advisory Board chairman will contact the City and request the application forms of individuals who have indicated an interest in becoming members of the E.I.A. Board.
- The Board as a whole will review the available application forms from the City and other applications forms that may be given to them and create a “short list” of possible candidates to be interviewed for recommendation.
- Upon Advisory Board selection, the Advisory Board chairman will send a letter to the Troy City Council proposing the selected candidate.

Criteria:

- Attendance at all regularly scheduled E.I.A. Board meetings. Must attend a minimum of 9 meetings a year.
- Attendance is required at all major events sponsored by the Board.
- Applicants must have a background or interest in promoting diversity in our community.
- Applicants must be a Citizen of the United States and a registered voter.
- Applicants must live in the City of Troy.
- A maximum of two representatives of a specific ethnic group may be on the Advisory Board at any one time.
- The Board will consist of 9 (nine) members representing different ethnic groups, a maximum of 2 (two) student representatives, and a liaison from the City of Troy.
- Commitment will be effective for either 2 (two) or 3 (three) years depending on year of appointment.

Motion by M. Sarma to approve the proposed process for recommendation of how EIA Board Members are recommended for appointment to City Council.
Seconded by O. Shah.

Approved unanimously

ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD – DRAFT MINUTES NOVEMBER 7, 2005

b. Sights and Sounds of the World – March 11, 2006

Need countries for March 11th event. Countries not represented at previous Sights & Sounds events: Mexico, France, Korea, Spain, S. America, Cuba, Africa, Japan, Ethiopia. Send letters out soon to groups.

c. Senior Citizens Project

It was agreed that we will present workshops on various cultures and religions to the Senior Citizens at the Community Center on four consecutive Thursdays in April (6, 13, 20, 27) at 12:30 pm in room 303 (room holds max of 75 people). Tentative Schedule: Indian – Padma & Anju; Chinese - ? Middle Eastern – Mayada, Jewish – Michael Silverstein, Rabbi Arni Starr

d. Troy Daze EthniCity

Chairperson Joann Preston resigned. Troy Daze is looking for 1-2 people from EIA Board to step forward. Board members will consider this.

e. Goals – To be covered at January meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Brodbine, second by Shah to adjourn the Ethnic Issues Advisory Board meeting at 9:10 pm. Approved unanimously.