

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007
TROY CITY HALL - CONFERENCE ROOM C**

I. Call to Order 7:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present:

Michelle Haight
Anju Brodbine
Hailu Robele
Kelly Jones
Tony Haddad
Gladson Remos
Grigore Buia
Cindy Stewart

Absent:

Reuben Ellis
Mayada Fakhouri
Lulu Guo
Helen Yang

III. Approval of Minutes – January 2, 2007

Motion by Kelly Jones to approve the January 2, 2007 minutes, seconded by Michelle Haight. Approved unanimously.

IV. Correspondence / Articles

Article in the Detroit News re: Preparing for a global market - Schools debate Patterson's idea of teaching Mandarin

Comment - Language obstacles can often be overcome but not cultural barriers. Schools should do a better job on education re: cultures.

Michelle will email EIA Board her cultural connection newsletter each month.

V. New Business

a. Feedback – Trading Places

Facilitators did a good job, very open and responsive. Made an impact. Learning about each other's backgrounds helps us deal with others. Good ground rules. Very impressed with facilitators. It was eye opening getting to know our board members.

Questions re: cost for Trading Places workshops. It was free for the E.I.A. Board because of our commitment to helping facilitate Bridging the Racial Divide.

Based on our goals, we should encourage schools and other community groups to take part in workshops facilitated by MI Roundtable. There is a need for

diversity, sensitivity training for school administrative staff as well as local business employees. Find out what programs related to diversity training are available and get the information to the school district. With the information our Board can send a rep to meet with Dr. Fowler. Another idea is to invite all leaders from our places of worship and get their feedback. But concern is unless you have a good facilitator, this might not work. Another idea is to work together with the Troy Interfaith Group. They have already brought together the different places of worship. Next meeting is Thursday, March 8, 2007 @7 pm at the Bharatyia Temple.

VI. Old Business

a. EthniCity – Troy Daze

We need more ways to get kids involved in the EthniCity Tent – hands on games, musical instruments. Move EthniCity tent closer to Outdoor Stage so entertainment ties into booths. Can signage be larger? We need Greeters in front of tent - Volunteers from high school dressed in costumes to entice people to come into the tent. EIA Board as greeters at booth in costume.

Ideas: write name on hand in another language, Mehendi, fortune tellers, bring passports back again. Hailu knows someone from Nigeria. He will ask if he'd be willing to have a booth at EthniCity. Find out date of Athens International Fair 2007.

b. Recommendations re: Board Vacancies

Board needs to develop procedures/guidelines

Some suggestions - Requirement to attend 3 meetings, requirement to volunteer for one event/activity sponsored by E.I.A. Board.

c. Absences

Send policy to Board (approved 11/7/05) and place on agenda at April meeting.

d. LINC

Leadership in the New Century was offered by MI Roundtable and presented by E.I.A. Board for the Troy High Schools. National City gave \$10,000 to coordinate the LINC program. The money was paid to the Community Foundation who paid MI Roundtable. The Schools are concerned that they got burdened with additional costs – transportation, staffing and food – ball was dropped. Michelle will contact Tom Kaszubski from the Community Foundation re: where the additional \$5000 went. Wasn't it to be used for follow up training for the students? Michelle will report back at April meeting.

e. Goals – all members received copies.

VII. Staff Report

Translation of brochures – idea to get this accomplished. Gladson has contact he will pass along for a translation company.

VIII. Public Comment – none

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Anju Brodbine, seconded by Hailu Robele. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. Next meeting is Tuesday, April 3.

Michelle Haight, EIA Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIA Recording Secretary