

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007
TROY CITY HALL - CONFERENCE ROOM C**

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

II. Roll Call:

Present:

Michelle Haight
Kelly Jones
Hailu Robele
Gladson Remos
Grigore Buia
Mayada Fakhouri
Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Absent:

Tony Haddad
Helen Yang
Lulu Guo
Anju Brodbine
Reuben Ellis

Intro:

Karen Yelder, resident of Troy, with two students at Athens High. She is on the Boys & Girls' Club Board and Troy Schools Sex Education Advisory Board.

III. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2007

Motion by Gladson Remos to approve the April 3, 2007 minutes, seconded by Hailu Robele. Approved unanimously.

IV. Correspondence / Articles

“Mosque expects worship, peace” – Detroit Free Press May 2007

“Words that divided also could help unite” – Detroit Free press May 2007

Panel Discussion

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

“Improving Communication in Hamtramck – Overcoming the Language Barrier and the Political Barrier”

V. New Business

a. Report on healing Racism Workshop - Tabled to June meeting.

VI. Old Business

a. Recommendations re: Board vacancies and absences –

Approved 2-year term for Board Chair at April meeting. Kelly said it is a good idea for prospective members to attend 1-2 meetings before Board recommends them to the Board. Members agree that it should be a minimum of two meetings, so people are sure this is the Board they would like to serve on.

Add to process for Recommendation of new E.I.A. Board Members to City Council.
Minimum of attendance at 2 E.I.A. Board meetings.

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 application forms that may be given to them and create a "short list" of possible candidates to be interviewed for recommendation.
- Minimum of attendance at two E.I.A. Board meetings
- 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.
- Maximum of two representatives of a specific ethnic group may be on the Advisory Board at any one time.
- Upon Advisory Board selection, the Advisory Board chairman will send a letter to the Troy City Council proposing the selected candidate.

But how do we know whom to recommend to City Council?

Input to recommend people who will volunteer to our major events.

Criteria for all E.I.A. Board Members

- Attendance at scheduled E.I.A. Board meetings. After 3 meeting absences, discussion with the Board member will be held regarding scheduling conflicts and possible Board removal.
- Attendance is required at most major events sponsored by the Board.
- 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.

b. Troy School District Update

Meeting on Monday, May 14 from 2 pm - 3 pm at 4400 Livernois with Dr. Fowler, Tim McAvoy, Steve Matthews and representatives from E.I.A. (Michelle, Hailu, Anju, and Cindy) and Troy Interfaith Group (Padma Kuppa, Pastor Rich Peacock).

Draft Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. EIA & TIG Mission & Goals

3. Troy School District initiatives addressing issues of diversity and inclusion
 - staff diversity training
 - student LINC project
 - Resources available to students related to diversity, inclusion, discrimination
 - Hiring a diverse population of staff, teachers, counselors
4. Collaboration opportunities for Ethnic Issues Advisory Board, Troy Interfaith Group and the Troy School District.
 - Offering workshops related to understanding different cultures and customs for staff and students.
 - Teaching tolerance materials (free curriculum materials – tolerance, inclusion, acceptance)
 - Bridging the Racial Divide: more staff involvement.
 - Being liaison to the schools for MI Roundtable and Institute for Healing Racism
 - Diversity newsletter and possibility of sending it home with all elementary students
 - More notification from schools re: their diversity events, programs
5. Upcoming Ethnic Issues Advisory Board and Troy Interfaith Group Events – Bridging the Racial Divide, Tuesday May 29, 2007 at Walsh College
Ethnicity September 15 & 16 at Troy Daze.

Michelle's conversation with Tim and Steve – they are very interested and open-minded re: diversity training. Ethnic Issues Advisory Board and Troy Interfaith Group have similar goals and visions related to diversity issues, religious harmony, etc. so the schools wanted to meet with both groups together.

Members will report back at June meeting.

- c. Troy Daze – Ethnicity
Working on updating Resource Guide before mailing out EthniCity booth applications. After applications go out, Board will follow up with calls to groups. Kelley offered to call groups not previously involved.

Michelle will contact the foreign language clubs re: involvement.

Michelle purchased musical instruments and games for an event at Barnard. They can be used for EthniCity for kids to play with. Instruments from Vietnam, Cameroon, India, Kenya, Indonesia. We can have adult volunteers work with kids in EthniCity tent.

Michelle has a template for a booklet for kids to cut and color listing ways to say hello in many languages.

- d. Bridging the Racial Divide –

Michelle Height and Barb Ford are the coordinators

Board members please promote this event.
Michelle, Kelley, Cindy will attend.

e. Translation of City Brochures

Companies would not do this for free, but they will quote prices.

VII. Public comment – Karen Yelder feels this Board is doing wonderful work. Karen met Michelle and Padma at the MLK event. She is excited to work with this Board.

VIII. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Gladson Remos, seconded by Hailu Robele. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Michelle Haight, EIA Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIA Recording Secretary