

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD  
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007  
TROY CITY HALL - CONFERENCE ROOM C**

I. Call to Order 7:06 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Present:

Michelle Haight  
Kelly Jones  
Gladson Remos  
Grigore Buia (7:20)  
Mayada Fakhouri  
Cindy Stewart, City Liaison  
Tony Haddad  
Reuben Ellis (left at 8:35p)

Absent

Helen Yang                      Hailu Robele  
Lulu Guo                         Anju Brodbine

Intro:

III. Approval of Minutes – June 5, 2007

Motion by Reuben Ellis to approve the June 5, 2007 minutes, seconded by Gladson Remos. Approved unanimously with changes to 1<sup>st</sup> sentence under member comment...add: using it for social and/or studying. Plus pg 3... Gladson suggested the following Recommendations to be an advisor & Application:

1. *Must be a US citizen& a registered voter*
2. *Must be a resident of Troy for a minimum period of two years*
3. *To be an advisor to a certain ethnic group, the person should:*
  - a. *Belong to a certain ethnic group which does not have more than two representatives on the board*
  - b. *Be currently involved with activities of the ethnic group they are representing*
  - c. *Preferably be someone who migrated to the US and has a good understanding of the ethnic group's culture they are representing*
  - d. *Have leadership qualities and be a team player*
4. *There must be an equal number of males and females in the advisory group. Gender selection is necessary so views of both gender perspectives can be shared*
5. *Must attend minimum two board meetings*

Application for Ethnic Advisory Group

*Date:*

*Name of Person:*

*Ethnic group representing:*

*US citizen since:*

*Troy resident since:*

*List current ethnic activities:*

*Other activities:*

*Briefly state why you would like to be part of the Ethnic Advisory Group.*

*Signature*

*Recommended by Board member:*

*Remarks by Board member:*

*Yes Recommendation*

*No Recommendation*

IV. Correspondence / Articles

“Unlock Life’s Touchiest Lessons – Rochelle Riley, Detroit Free Press July 8, 2007.

V. New Business

a. Report on Healing Racism Workshop - Tabled to August meeting.

b. Bridging the Racial Divide (May session) Update: Michelle gave a report on the May 22<sup>nd</sup> session at Walsh College. There will be another – the final segment in the fall. This is very relevant to our Ethnic Issues Advisory Board, but our attendance has been poor. Why is the Board not engaged in this? Reuben: We need diverse groups to attend, but who is the governing body? MI Roundtable is facilitating this program. Where is the power – it should not be exclusive. Michelle said it is backed by Emory King. Is it just a black and white issue? There are also problems related to Arabic Nations. But a solution must start somewhere. Largest polarization is black and white in SE Michigan. Kelly – why can’t we attend to learn and grow? Gladson – I felt there was nothing to learn. I’d participate if there was something to learn. Reuben – Black and white is not the issue, it is racism. Michelle – Then Gladson you should be there to give your opinions. Reuben - I did enjoy our diversity training we had here at City Hall. Why don’t they want feedback said Gladson? Michelle said there are opportunities to provide feedback. It looks bad to have no representation from our Board attend.

Michelle asked is there something we as a Board should attend? If it is not of interest, we should step back and let some other groups host this. Kelly is willing to attend and be involved. It is great when more students attend and give their opinions. Reuben said he might have to take his time rather than speak his convictions at the beginning. He gives as much input, using discretion, balanced thinking. Michelle said we should revisit the point Kelly made about getting more students involved, and obtaining their opinions. We must teach history so that history does not repeat itself

Motion by Mayada Fakhouri that the Ethnic Issues Advisory Board host the 4<sup>th</sup> Bridging the Racial Divide in the fall 2007. Seconded by Michelle Haight. Approved unanimously.

Michelle is asking for someone else to be co-coordinator with Barbara Ford to help with the school districts & specifically high school principals re: students attending.

Flyers will be sent to churches and community groups.

Co-coordinator will also book a room (Walsh College or Community Center) once we know the date. Attendance is approximately 50 – 75

Kelly said we should wait until August and see if we have a date for the event. It's hard to commit if we don't have a date. Michelle will call MI Roundtable and see if they will give her an idea of the date.

## VI. Old Business

### a. Recommendations re: Board vacancies and absences –

Gladson will email Cindy and she will make hard copies for August meeting.

Kelly would not agree to item C

“Preferably be someone who migrated to the U.S. and has a good understanding of the ethnic group’s culture they are representing.”

Kelly – We should accept anyone representing Troy. Michelle – I agree with Kelly. It would be on asset, but the person should also be familiar with our country and city.

Reuben – you can't make that a concrete rule, but it would be a plus. They would have a pure understanding of their culture.

Michelle – it's more important they are involved.

Kelly – but we aren't picking them, Council will pick them.

Michelle – I agree they should have a good understanding of their ethnic group's culture but also are involved in community activities.

Change b to: Be currently involved with community activities and/or activities from ethnic group they represent.

Michelle still has a concern with 3 C (migrated to the US)

Change c to: Has a good understanding of the ethnic group's culture they are representing.

Board agrees that d. is OK

#4 To promote equal representation gender equality should be considered.

#5 Must attend a minimum of two board meetings prior to recommendation.

Board would like to see any applications that are turned into the city clerk's office.

b. Troy Daze – Ethnicity

Booths committed to date (applications & checks in) are:  
Filipino American Community Council  
Finnish Center Association  
All Nations Lutheran Church—Pakistan  
Troy High School Chinese Club  
Council of Asian Pacific Americans (2)

Verbal commitments:

Polish  
India (Malini)  
St. George Orthodox Church- Middle East  
Arab American Council (1 day)

Cindy will send application to Ukrainian Cultural Center & North American Indians.

Michelle will contact Malini (India).

Ethnic Issues Advisory Board Table – Musical instruments from around the world. Kelly has this email for people to send her information re: EthniCity - [troyethnicity@yahoo.com](mailto:troyethnicity@yahoo.com)

Cindy will email Troy Daze schedule to: EIA Board re: Fri/Sat/Sun for members to volunteer for Ethnicity. Kelly suggests the Board members wear Ethnic dress if they have it.

We also need a world map for people to mark where their ancestors came from. Idea to purchase small American Flags (500 -1,000) to hand out at the end of the tent. Idea for interactive coloring pages for the kids. Mayada and Michelle will coordinate poster contest.

c. Translation of City Brochures – waiting for information and costs.

VII. Staff Reports – We received \$350 as co-host of Bridging the Racial Divide and the Troy Community Coalition also received \$350.

VIII. Member comment –

Gladson wondered how the Troy School District is recruiting teachers from diverse backgrounds. You cannot ask a person's ethnic background on an application.

Michelle shared that Tim McAvoy said they are actively pursuing teachers with diverse backgrounds. Dr. Fowler recently returned from a trip to China where the county is also recruiting for classes in the elementary schools.

Michelle will call members who have not been in attendance.

Gladson - we need to appoint a Vice Chair in case the chairperson is not in attendance. This will be on the August meeting agenda.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Gladson Remos seconded by Kelly Jones.  
Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

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Michelle Haight, EIA Chair

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Cindy Stewart, EIA Recording Secretary