

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007
TROY CITY HALL - CONFERENCE ROOM C**

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

II. Roll Call:

Present:

Michelle Haight
Kelly Jones
Mayada Fakhouri
Cindy Stewart, City Liaison
Tony Haddad
Gladson Remos
Lulu Guo, student rep
Helen Yang, student rep

Absent

Reuben Ellis
Grigore Buia
Anju Brodbine

Guests:

Karen Yelder
Cathy Francois
Sushma Shrestha

III. Approval of Minutes – August 14, 2007

Motion by Gladson Remos to approve the August 14, 2007 minutes, seconded by Kelly Jones. Approved unanimously

IV. Correspondence / Articles – None

V. New Business

a. School Update

Michelle Haight invited by Tim McAvoy to present information on the EIA Board to all the Troy School District's new teachers (35). She gave handouts regarding EIA Board, Resource Guide, and Troy cultural newsletter. Information was very well received. Members felt it is disappointing that the new teachers group is not diverse.

b. Grant Info – tabled to October meeting.

Grant opportunities information to be sent to Board. Please read and bring to October meeting.

VI. Old Business

a. EthniCity – Troy Daze

The tent is full with 15 organizations, kid's activities and the poster contest. The vendor meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6 at 7 pm at the Community Center.

Posters are coming for the Poster contest. Judging is Tuesday, September 11 at the Community Center. Michelle will coordinate pick up of posters at library, Community Center and Elementary Schools. Four judges confirmed (art teacher and music teachers).

American flags to pass out to children and activities for children along with musical instruments. Michelle will bring the CD player.

Michelle has artifacts from Asia and Africa. Kelly has artifacts from Russia and Mexico. Cathy has items from India. Tony has a tea maker from Iraq.

b. Recommendations for new Board Members

City Attorney's office recommends removal of wording of Ethnic Group representing. City cannot ask this question of employees and wants to stay consistent with volunteers.

Michelle made a motion to approve the application for Ethnic Issues Advisory Board prospective members with recommendations from the City Attorney's office. Seconded by Tony Haddad. Approved unanimously.

c. Resources

Michelle has a textbook from her dad "Strangers to These Stories – Race and Ethnic Relations in the United States," by Vincent Carrillo. Board members can borrow it. Tony Haddad will borrow until October meeting.

VII. Staff Report

Christina Broomfield will appoint Karen Yelder at the September 10 Council meeting. Karen will go to the meeting to be introduced to Council.

VIII. Member Comments

Discussion held regarding how to facilitate hiring of more teachers of diverse backgrounds. After Troy Daze, perhaps the Board can research how other communities and municipalities hire diverse populations.

Michelle brought forward that the Cultural Committee Group at Barnard Elementary is going to match school families as mentors to new families from similar countries. They sent letters home at the end of school year 2006-07 and received 15 letters from families who would be willing to be mentors and the languages they speak.

It would be great to have families helping families. Information could be disseminated in school newsletters.

Might be a good idea to get others regardless of background who would volunteer to mentor any new family. They don't have to be from the same ethnic background as the new family.

Bridging the Racial Divide – no news on fall date.

October EIA Meeting

Teona Mackelvene Institute for the Healing of Racism of South Eastern Michigan is scheduled.

Cindy will email EIA Board recent mission and goals.

What can the Board do to facilitate more understanding of ethnic groups among high school students? Cathy and Karen have observed students hanging around in their separate ethnic groups. Michelle will facilitate meeting with EIA Board members and Athens Principal and Assistant Principals to see what they can do to help.

Michelle will set up a meeting mid-October.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mayada Fakhouri. Seconded by Gladson Remos.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Michelle Haight, EIA Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIA Recording Secretary