

TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for Tuesday, April 1, 2008

I. Call to Order 7:15 pm

II. Roll Call

Present Kelly Jones
 Grigore Buia
 Helen Yang
 Cindy Stewart
 Michelle Haight
 Reuben Ellis
 Mayada Fakhouri

Absent Karen Yelder
 William Lawrence
 Tony Haddad
 Lulu Guo

III. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2008

Motion by Kelly Jones
Seconded by Mayada Fakhouri
To approve the February 5, 2008 minutes. Minutes approved unanimously

IV. Correspondence / Articles

Two to enter International Science Competition – Troy Eccentric, 03/23/08. Helen Yang will represent Michigan in the international Science & Engineering Fair in May in Atlanta. Helen's project is entitled "Using Arugula to Manage the Northern Root-knot Nematode in Variable Soil Types."

"Families of Foreign Workers strive to fit in – they work to break isolation, navigate everyday life." Detroit News, 3/4/08

Correspondence - Letter from teacher Nadeen Brown
Regarding the first meeting of the African American Parents of Troy Support Group – April 14 @ 7:30 pm @ Troy School District Services Building.

Kelly found online info re: Diversity from University of Chicago and National Diversity Foundation in Rhode Island.

Michelle on behalf of Big Beaver United Methodist Church ordered the free Teaching Tolerance curriculum materials.

“Legacy of Rosa Parks,” “Shadow of Hate,” “Children’s March” and “Rhinos & Raspberries” – 12 short stories teaching tolerance for young children.

Michelle is using Rhinos & Raspberries @ Barnard with the 1st and 2nd graders.

V. New Business

a. Community Labyrinth project

We will have 2 speakers at the May 13 meeting – Charlotte Summers & Ruth Turner

Coalition Prayer Breakfast – May 2

Michelle was asked to do a Diversity Calendar (May-Dec 2008) for participants.

VI. Old Business

a. Grant information

Mayada has additional info. Cindy will forward to Tim McAvoy. Remove this topic from future agendas.

b. Troy School District Update

Michelle & Karen had a meeting scheduled with Assistant Superintendent and Principals on March 27 but it was cancelled. They are going to reschedule.

Michelle and Kelly met with Tim McAvoy and Kathy Davisson re: elementary schools. They hope to penetrate PTO/PTAs to create more of a grass roots program. Kelly will send info to Tim and Kathy and try to attend a principals meeting. Tim would like us to host a professional development seminar on the variety of religions in Troy. Michelle suggested linking with Troy Interfaith Group. Idea for quarterly sessions approx. 4 - 5:30 pm. Tim has specific ideas re: this professional development and the content, for staff only right now and to begin 2008/09 school year. Michelle will contact Padma re: collaboration. Schools also want EIAB/TIG to do Diversity info session at new Teacher Orientation in August.

Tim is also looking for translation help for many school documents. Cindy will pass along the contacts she has re: translation organization. Michelle and Kelly suggested seeking help from Honors Students or perhaps their families.

Arab American Chaldean Council would be a resource for Arabic languages.

Michelle came across a parent who would not want it in her native language. She wants to be challenged and get better at the English language.

Tim feels comfortable with utilizing the EIAB as a resource. He is interested in our Resource Guide. Cindy will give Tim a copy. Intern in her office updated it this year.

c. 2008 Projects & Assignments

Contracting other cities re: Diversity Boards

Mayada found information on Farmington Hills committee on their web site – will pass along to Board. Has not heard from the contact – playing phone tag.

Idea for EIAB to implement a Recognition Program to recognize Troy residents who help bridge the racial and cultural divide.

How would we come up with people? Promotions in Troy Today, newspapers, school newsletter seeking nominations. EIAB would come up with the criteria to nominate people.

Kelly received an e-mail from Ann Arbor – they do not have a Diversity Committee, have Human Rights Commission. Their nine member commission also deals with Disabilities, Affirmative Action, and Educational Programs.

Kelly talked to Steve Guitar, Sterling Heights. Their Ethnic Community Committee has nine members. They have info on their web site – links to various ethnic/cultural groups with informational brochures. First Friday in February sponsoring a “Cultural Exchange” @ Community Center. They receive \$500/year from the city. Also produce a booklet with advertising dollars. They also do a float for their Memorial Day Parade.

Good ideas being generated for Troy’s EIAB to do.

Michelle reported that Barnard will be doing a Diversity Dinner (International Potluck) on May 28 in conjunction with International Fair. Could be something EIAB sponsors (International Potluck Dinner) for the community. Michelle suggested holding it @ Big Beaver United Methodist Church. They have a kitchen. Idea for the future.

d. Troy Daze Festival – EthniCity

Michelle is concerned with the level of participation @ EIA Board events. Do we have the commitment from the Board to carry out this project?

What is required of the Board? Outline the events & what needs to be done.

Kelly feels ok with responsibility in getting booths, but during the festival she needs more Board members to be there to help with set-up & tear down, manage student reps & take more responsibility.

It appears there are no board members who want to step up as co-chair of EthniCity with Kelly. Cindy will check with Karen and Cathy.

If they are not interested she will let the Troy Daze Board know the situation and see if there are any volunteers willing to help.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Member Comment

X. Adjournment 8:50 pm

Motion by Reuben Ellis, seconded by Kelly Jones. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 7 pm

Michelle Haight, EIAB Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary