

TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for Tuesday, May 13, 2008

I. Call to Order 7:15 pm

II. Roll Call

Present Kelly Jones
 Grigore Buia
 Cindy Stewart, City Liaison
 Karen Yelder
 Cathy Francois
 William Lawrence (7:40 pm)

Absent Michelle Haight
 Mayada Fakhouri
 Reuben Ellis
 Tony Haddad
 Lulu Guo
 Helen Yang

Guests Charlotte Sommers, Northminster Presbyterian Pastor
 Ruth Turner, Labyrinth Committee Chair

III. Approval of Minutes – April 1, 2008

Motion by Kelly Jones

Seconded by Grigore Buia

To approve the April 1, 2008 minutes. Minutes approved with addition of Cathy Francois added to members absent and correct spelling for Charlotte Sommers. Approved unanimously.

IV. New Business

a. Labyrinth Presentation – Charlene and Ruth Turner

The Community Interfaith Labyrinth represents a partnership of the many houses of worship in our community; borne from our common goal: to offer the Labyrinth to people as a source of spiritual renewal and hospitality.

A labyrinth is a walking pattern which is a continuous path with one way in and one way out. Allows one to walk and mediate with no distraction. Labyrinth can turn our drifting into purpose. The labyrinth can provide a bridge between people of all ages, all races, and different religious traditions.

Troy Interfaith Group has raised the money to begin the project. Kick off is June 1st at 3 pm.

Guests showed a brief video on labyrinths.

The labyrinth will be located at Northminster Presbyterian Church on Big Beaver Rd., east of Adams. A committee researched and visited labyrinths for over a year before starting the project.

Northminster sits very far away from the road. The church was designed by Yamasaki (the only church he designed). Building it in the front yard will offer security, hospitality and welcoming to everyone.

Cost is approx \$47,000 for labyrinth (45 feet width) all the landscaping trees and 800 feet path into the labyrinth. They wanted it to be very accessible. Cost does not include lighting, benches and signage.

They would like the EIAB to spread the word about the labyrinth and invite groups to come and use it.

b. Troy Daze EthniCity

Co-coordinators: Kelly and Michelle will contact groups to participate after letters have been mailed. Karen Yelder will help as a co-chair during the Troy Daze weekend.

EIA Board will need to be available to facilitate the EthniCity Tent. Mark your calendars for Sept. 13-14. We will have a volunteer schedule for members to sign up at the June meeting. We will also need volunteers for putting flags together on Friday Sept. 12 for a few hours in the afternoon.

Poster Contest – Michelle is the Chair. EIAB needs to come up with the theme so flyer can be put on the Troy Daze Web site. Send ideas to Kelly soon.

Booth Guidelines – It was decided to have a \$30/non-refundable booth fee which will include one table. Kelly will revise letter and application and send to Cindy to copy and mail out.

V. Old Business

a. Elementary Update – No Report

b. African American Parent Support Group – This was initiated by Troy teacher Nadeen Brown to address the achievement gap of African American students.

First meeting – 90 people in attendance, second meeting – 75 people
The group meets the second Monday each month at 7:30 pm in the Troy School District Services Building.

Kelly would like the EIAB to come up with resources related to diversity (ex. African American Parent Support Group, Videos, Web sites, diversity training, etc) to offer to PTOs.

c. Diversity Recognition Month

EIAB talked briefly about implementing a recognition program to recognize people who help bridge the racial and cultural divide.

d. 2008 Projects and Assignments – No Report

VI. Adjournment 8:35 pm

Motion by Cathy Francois, seconded by William Lawrence. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 7 pm

Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary