

TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for Tuesday, June 3, 2008

I. Call to Order 7:05 pm

II. Roll Call

Present Michelle Haight
 Kelly Jones
 Cathy Francois
 William Lawrence
 Helen Yang
 Grigore Buia (7:45 pm)
 Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Absent Mayada Fakhouri
 Reuben Ellis
 Tony Haddad
 Lulu Guo
 Karen Yelder

III. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2008

Motion by Kelly Jones
Seconded by William Lawrence
To approve the April 1, 2008 minutes. Approved unanimously.

IV. Correspondence/Articles

Info on June 6,7,8 – Detroit Festival of the Arts will be held at the Cultural Center (WSU, Library, DIA). It will include children's activities, entertainment and performing arts. Info at www.DetroitFestival.com.

Michelle shared books written by Chris Lin – Mandy & Pandy, Say "Ni Hao Ma" and "Let's Count." Books written in English and Mandarin. Author will do presentation at schools (maybe Troy Library). Comes with CD so kids can learn pronunciation. Books available from TeachingTolerance.org. "Rhinos and Raspberries" Tolerance Tales for the Early Grades. Free to educators.

V. New Business

1. Student Representatives

Liyuan (Lily) Huang of Troy High will be joining the board. She will be a junior at Troy High in Fall 2008. She is interested in this board since Troy is so multi-cultural, and the board has the same belief she has in making Troy a better city by being accepting of others. She's lived here for 8 years.

2. Presentation to Helen Yang

Helen Yang will be graduating June 7 from Troy High. She is leaving 8/8/08 for China and will be moving to Harvard on 9/6/08 to study medicine. The board expressed appreciation to Helen for her dedication to the board and out mission.

3. Troy Daze EthniCity –

Poster Contest: Theme is “Celebrating Diversity through the Golden Rule: Treating People as You Would Like to Be Treated.” Michelle will chair the Poster Contest. Prizes will be Gifts Cards: \$50 for First, \$25 for Second; and \$15 for Third.

Booth Updates: Kelly heard from Willie Dechavez that he wants 2 booths for NFFAA (National Federation Filipino American Association) and 2 booths for CAPA (Council of Asian Pacific Americans). Muslim Unity will move to the big tent. Kelly will start calling last year’s groups this week.

India – Michelle
 St. George/ACC – Mayada
 Peru – Cindy
 Troy High Chinese Club – Lily
 Spanish Club - Lily
 French Club - Lily

Giveaways: Need to come up with ideas for small trinket giveaways. Last year flags were given. It was a great idea – board agrees to giveaway flags and also print a passport. Cindy will have volunteers this summer to assemble passports

Volunteers: Sign up sheet for EthniCity Booth passed around to EIA Board. Cindy will e-mail.

VI. **Old Business**

Troy School District Updates

- a. Elementary School: Liaison Kelly is collecting resources to present to PTOs. If anyone has anything, please pass on to Kelly. As a committee we are trying to provide resources to both elementary and secondary PTOs for diverse participation with ethnic families (videos, books, clubs brochures, reading material, Websites).
- b. Barnard Schools trying to connect new families with existing families from same country/backgrounds. Schroeder and Hamilton are doing a program like this.
- c. High School – Karen Yelder, liaison – No Report
- d. African American Parent Support Group – Next Meeting will be Monday, June 9 at 7:30 pm at TSD Services Building. All are invited. Michelle shared their action plan.

- e. Middle School Update – Michelle went to Baker with Padma to address the teaching staff and administration (requested by Principal Larry Hahn). Spoke of Troy demographics, background of EIAB and teaching resources, cultural calendar. Tim McAvoy wants them to offer professional development training for Troy School District staff on religious journeys. This will be a quarterly presentation (starting Sept. 08) on Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu/Buddist/Sikh to promote understanding, tolerance, and respect. Cathy would volunteer to help.
- f. Diversity Recognition Program tabled until October meeting. Kelly will gather info from Sterling Heights. They have a dinner planned Sept. 19 – 1st Annual Diversity Dinner.

VII. Member Comment

Michelle announced she would like to resign as EIAB chairperson. She appreciates everyone's support. Motion to appoint Vice Chair Kelly Jones as Chairperson. She did excellent work on Troy Daze EthniCity last year.

Motioned by Michelle Haight
Seconded by Cathy Francois
Approved unanimously

Kelly graciously accepts the nomination.

VIII. Adjournment 8:40 pm

Motion by Kelly Jones, seconded by Michelle Haight. Meeting adjourned.

Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary

Next Meeting Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 7 pm