TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for Tuesday, August 12, 2008

I. Call to Order 7:10 pm

II. Roll Call

Present
Michelle Haight
Karen Yelder
Kelly Jones
William Lawrence
Grigore Buia
Reuben Ellis
Lily Huang, Student rep
Cindy Stewart, city liaison

Absent
Cathy Francois
Mayada Fakhouri
Tony Haddad

Visitors: Faris Alami

III. Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2008

Motion to approve July 15, 2008 minutes by Karen Yelder, seconded by Kelly Jones. Approved unanimously.

IV. Correspondence/ Articles

a. Updated Resource Listing handed out.

b. Michelle has article from Congressman Knollenberg's blog re: his derogatory remarks towards Asians. "Protecting Our Families from Asian Invaders" changed to "Protecting our Families from Harmful Products." Intent was not to be derogatory – poor choice of words. Hopefully his office has made amends with the groups he upset.

V. Old Business

a. Troy Daze Ethnicity

Ethnicity Booths Confirmed:

EIAB, Peru, Germany, Troy High Chinese Club, Bharatiya Temple, CAPA, NAFFAA, African American Parent Support Group, Filipino American Community Council. Total 12 tables.

Possibilities: Arab Chaldean Council, Japanese Club. No Finland, Poland, Buddha, Spanish Club, Can't reach Taiwan, China.

Ideas to fill tent: floor games, entertainment, Mehendi.

Student volunteers needed:
Friday 3-7 pm, 10 volunteers
Saturday 10am-2pm, 6 volunteers; 2pm-6pm, 6 volunteers;
6pm-10pm, 6 volunteers
Sunday 12pm-4pm, 4 volunteers; 4pm-8pm, 6 volunteers

Passports:
Mayada said the Arab Chaldean Council will donate passports. Michelle will give Cindy the contact for a company that sells stamps from countries. Also, get fact sheets from each county to hand out. Flags have been delivered. Maps to display. Display board? Instruments – Michelle.

Kelly stressed the importance for EIAB to play an active role at Troy Daze Ethnicity.

Poster contest: Michelle is lining up judges for the Poster Contest. No child of EIAB is allowed to win.

b. African American Support Group

Seminar, Monday August 11th at Baker – 60 people in attendance, broke into support groups – example, SAT Prep class, Math help, Tutoring Assistance.

Teachers from Troy Schools as speakers – great motivational speakers and awesome information.

August 5th there was an activity – bowling at Troy Lanes, 80 parents and children attended.

Next meeting is September 8th at Troy School District Service Center Building, 7:30-9 pm.

c. Troy School District Updates

Elementary school – Kelly is finalizing her presentation for PTOs/PTAs. Date is unconfirmed. Information includes statistics, EIAB Mission & Goals. Kelly will share this info for the High School presentations.

High Schools – Michelle will help Karen with high school presentations to PTOs.
Monday, August 18th is the new teacher orientation. Michelle will be out of town so Mayada will work with Padma to present. New Director of Curriculum will give cultural cohesiveness presentation after Padma and Mayada. Michelle will include her new cultural connection calendar to her teachers, as well as Teaching Tolerance materials. Cindy has handouts ready for Mayada.

Michelle (EIAB) and Padma (TIG) are coordinating training for School Administrators. Working on Professional Development for 52 of District's Administrators. Dates are: October 22, December 10, March 18, April 22 (locations to be announced). They will break into groups, 6 voices – Arab, Jewish, Muslim, African, Indian, and Chinese.

There will be two presenters at each workshop. Hopefully next year they can include teachers. Possible to include City Administrators/Employees in a similar workshop in the future?

VI. New Business

a. Sterling Heights Diversity Dinner September 18th at Ike's Family Dining on Van Dyke, Sterling Heights. $30/ticket.

b. Cultural Brochures –

Michelle wants us to put together a brochure, "Faces of Troy," to highlight some cultural groups and provide information, customs, religions, stores/restaurants, cultural holidays, and history.

Use photos of actual city residents. Example, Arab, Chinese, and Indian. Project done by the end of 2008.

VII. Public Comment

a. Faris Alami: Visit, xology.com, he has an article "Bridging Cultural Differences." Also wrote an article for the Oakland Press, "Understanding the Changing Needs of the Me Generation."

VIII. Motion to adjourn 8:05 pm, by Michelle Haight and seconded by Reuben Ellis.

Next Meeting Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 7 pm

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Kelly Jones, EIAB Chair

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Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary