

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes for Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

I. Call to Order 7:10 pm

II. Roll Call

Present      Kelly Jones  
                  Grigore Buia  
                  Cathy Francois  
                  John Witt  
                  Reuben Ellis  
                  Michelle Haight  
                  Lily Huang, student rep  
                  Aries Tao, student rep  
                  Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Absent        Karen Yelder  
                  Veena Rao  
                  Mayada Fakhouri

III. Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2008

Motion by Kelly Jones  
Seconded by Michelle Haight to approve the October 14, 2008 minutes.

IV. New Business

a. Correspondence/Articles

School District Tries to Lure Asian Parents – New York Times, 11/12/08

Michigan Roundtable sponsoring a luncheon – “Opportunity for All” – Inequity, Linked Fate and Social Justice in Michigan – Friday, January 30 at Charles Wright Museum of African American History.

Celebration of Freedom to Honor the Spirit and Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 19 at 8:30 am. All are invited.

b. Introduction of new Board Members

John Witt has been a resident since 2000. Starting WSU for a Masters in Public Administration, member of Troy Optimist Club and Troy Toastmasters.

Aries Tao is a senior at Troy High School and hopes to attend University of Pennsylvania or University of Michigan majoring in business.

## V. Old Business

## a. Troy Daze – EthniCity Discussion.

Serious thoughts on this topic – EIA Board needs to make a firm commitment if they decide to do this project.

Cathy – would be willing to participate that weekend on a larger scale.

Kelly – Organizations that participate do a great job, but it's a lot of work for a few people. Have we measured what the community gets out of it?

Cathy – poster contest seemed important.

Reuben – if we lose EthniCity, will it be missed?

Michelle – Is there another way to embrace our diversity within the community? We might not need the tent but keep ethnic entertainment

Kelly – Vendors are important to this event. Participation has declined over the years. This board has gotten more involved with the school district which goes with our goals.

Michelle – propose the EIAB do the poster contest and promote themselves as a resource to Troy Daze Committee.

Kelly & Cathy agreed. They will leave themselves open to help the committee.

Motion made by Michelle Haight that the Ethnic Issues Advisory Board sponsors a poster contest to celebrate/embrace diversity during the Troy Daze Festival and not coordinate the EthniCity tent. Seconded by John Witt. Motion approved unanimously.

Further discussion – look at what other cities do and research if something on a smaller scale to fill void of EthniCity Tent. Come back with ideas at the February 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Reuben will research Indianapolis, East Pointe, Southfield and Ann Arbor. John will research Arizona. Other Board members will find communities with diversity events

- b. African American Support Group – next meeting will be Jan. 12, 2009. Board members will try to attend.
- c. Troy School District updates. Kelly met with Costello PTO related to Diversity in Troy. She encouraged more diverse activities at the school. Principal very supportive but not a lot of reaction from the parents. They have a school fair in March with one room that has Ethnic tables (run by one parent).

As a Board, Kelly would like to see more connectivity among the schools. Tim McAvoy is emailing Michelle's cultural newsletter (Cultural Connections)..

Cultural Connections – Team Troy: Michelle and Padma Kuppa (Troy Interfaith Group) coordinated the second professional development program (administration, principals, vice principals) on Wednesday, December 10. There were 50 people held at congregation Shir Tikvah. The Jewish voice (Rabbi Arnie and Michael Silverstein) spoke about their customs, traditions. The Chinese voice was Tai Chan retired from Gm/Troy resident – very dynamic and Heather Zhou (Hill/Larson parent).

Mr. Chan shared *Global Journeys in Metro Detroit*– a multicultural guide to the Motor City. [www.globaldetroit.com](http://www.globaldetroit.com).

Next program: March 18 at Islamic Ctr. Muslim (AIGD) & African American voices. Evaluations have been outstanding towards the program. They also liked visiting many new places of worship.

(1<sup>st</sup> October Program was Arab America & India voices)  
Last program is April – Hindu voice.

Michelle will provide handouts to the EIAB from the program at our next meeting.

Cathy will bring information on an Interfaith Retreat planned for the near future

d. Cultural Brochures

Michelle will e-mail Cindy info she has collected for the brochures (Arab American, Asian American, Slavic, Indian). Cindy she will format and bring copies to next meeting in February.

VI. Member Comment

Willie DeChavez (NAFA) invited Kelly to awards dinner Oct 2008 at Somerset Inn. Honored Filipino Americans who contribute to their community. Kelly was honored to represent EIAB.

VII. Adjournment 8:30 pm

Motion by Kelly Jones, seconded by Cathy Francois. Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7 pm**

---

Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

---

Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary