

TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for Tuesday, February 10, 2009

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Present Kelly Jones
 Cathy Francois
 Michelle Haight
 Karen Yelder
 Mayada Fakhouri
 Veena Rao
 John Witt
 Lily Huang, student rep
 Cindy Stewart, City Liaison
 Grigore Buia

Absent Reuben Ellis
 Aries Tao, student rep

Guest Jill Myllyoja (friend of Cathy)

III. Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2009

Motion by Michelle Haight
 Seconded by Kelly Jones to approve the January 6, 2009 minutes.

IV. New Business

a. Correspondence/Articles

Macomb Community College at the Lorenzo Cultural Center will have ongoing programs free of charge from February 28 – May 16, 2009. Information is available at www.macombcenter.com or www.lorenzoculturalcenter.com.

V. Old Business

a. Troy Daze – EthniCity Discussion.

Kelly found information from Farmington Hills and Eastpointe. Eastpointe has a World Festival. Any way we could do this on a smaller scale? (miindia.com has all Indian events posted.)

John Witt researched Gilbert, AZ. They have a global village festival (as does San Diego), Parade of Nations, sell crafts, tents/booths of different countries, entertainment, ethnic food.

Michelle noted that Chandler, AZ sponsors a children's play (folk tale) and an Anne Frank cultural exhibit.

In San Diego there is an international story teller, and a children's tent with face painting, crafts and games.

It was noted that EthniCity does come under Troy Daze and they already go after sponsors. It's hard to make this separate when it is under the Troy Daze umbrella.

The idea that perhaps it was time to take a break from EthniCity for a year, but sponsor the poster contest. The EIAB still wants to hold a poster contest, but cannot commit to organizing the EthniCity Tent with Booths. The Board just does not have the volunteers to handle this event.

Will the City celebrate our diversity if we don't have EthniCity? The EIA Board believes they will. The Library offers great cultural programs. We offer diversity training for the schools together with the Troy Interfaith Group. Perhaps expand to teachers, PTOs as well as the Business community and city employees.

Board can also work with the Library to offer support for their programs. Also offer information/programs to the community that the Michigan Roundtable offers as well as outreach to groups working on diversity in Detroit.

Research more information/programs to add to our Diversity Resource Guide.

Troy Interfaith Group and African American Support Groups are great resources that EIAB could get more involved with.

Board agrees to sponsor poster contest and to notify the schools before the end of the year. Cindy will e-mail the last five poster contest themes to the Board to generate ideas for the March meeting.

- b. African American Support Group – Michelle attended the January and February meetings at Baker. Nadeen Brown does a great job and we should continue to support her. Rosie Chapman did a presentation on Harriet Tubman. The January meeting included math excel tutoring program, ACT prep and a bowling event over Winter break on February 17.
- c. Troy School District updates – The next professional development workshop is March 23. Michelle will bring materials to share with the EIAB. Troy Schools

hired a diversity consultant named Roslyn Cox. Michelle is going to talk to her about speaking at the March Diversity Workshop and invite her to a future EIAB meeting (May or June).

- c. Cultural Brochures -- Michelle will send information to Cindy to format and discuss at March meeting.

VI. Member Comment

Michelle said that Heather Zhou (she did Faces of China) is working with Michelle on a student exchange from China (10 students and 1 teacher). They applied for a grant from TFEF. They also plan to meet with L. Brooks Patterson for support. They will look for host families. Lily told of a similar program with Japan last year and she will get info to Michelle on the teacher who coordinated this at Troy High.

Kelly noted a program on PBS, "We Shall Remain," that will air April & May. It is a five-part mini-series on Native American culture and the history of our country. More information is available on www.pbs.org.

Karen noted that February is Black History Month.

Cathy handed out Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion 2009 Interfaith Retreat scheduled for May 3 & 4.

VII. Adjournment 8:14 pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Kelly Jones, and seconded by Karen Yelder. Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 7 pm

Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary