TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes for Tuesday, April 14, 2009

I. Call to Order 7:05 pm

II. Roll Call

Present
Kelly Jones
Cathy Francois
Mayada Fakhouri
Sharon MacDonell
John Witt
Reuben Ellis
Michelle Haight
Lily Huang, student rep
Aries Tao, student rep
Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Absent
Veena Rao
Karen Yelder

III. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2009

Motion by Cathy Francois
Seconded by John Witt to approve the February 10, 2009 minutes.

IV. New Business

a. Introduction of new Board members:
Sharon MacDonell has been a Troy resident for 3-1/2 years and is married to a Japanese-American man. They have adopted two daughters from China who attend Leonard Elementary. She is starting a cross-cultural committee at Leonard that will launch a cultural fair in the Spring of 2010.

b. Correspondence/Articles:
- Free Press: Police shooting of black man probed in Louisiana
- Thursday, May 7 at 7 pm: Troy Interfaith Group invites all to event at Big Beaver United Methodist Church called “Lift Every Voice” to celebrate National Day of Prayer.
- CAPA Bridging the Generation Gap Workshop – Saturday, May 16, from 1-4 pm for middle school and high school students, parents and teachers. It will be held at Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills campus. Free.
- Schroder Elementary PTO presents a “Multicultural Toolbox” workshop on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 pm.

c. EIAB Meetings

In past months, we have had problems making quorum. Kelly Jones is suggesting meetings every other month. With pulling away from Troy Daze EthniCity and focusing on school events/workshops, the need for monthly meetings is no longer there. This would be a more efficient and effective use of time. It's very frustrating for people to come to the meeting and then find there is no quorum; Board Members have not been good about letting the chair or staff liaison know they cannot attend.

John Witt noted that if the group changes the meeting schedule to every other month, everyone must make sure to attend the reduced number of meetings.

Kelly Jones said going forward, when members receive the agenda, they must respond back to Cindy Stewart as to whether or not – yes or no -- they are going to attend the meeting.

The following new meeting schedule was proposed: first Tuesdays in February, April, June, August, and October, and the second Tuesday of November.

Michelle Haight moved to approve the new meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Cathy Francois. The motion was approved. Cindy will send a new schedule to the Clerk's Office for posting.

V. Old Business

a. Troy Daze – EthniCity Poster Contest

The group brainstormed a number of ideas – Tapestry of Troy; How Life is Better with Friends of Different Cultures; Tapestry of Troy's Diversity; Together We Grow from Different Cultures; Celebrating Diversity – Together We Grow; Celebrating Multiculturalism – The Tapestry of Troy.

Lily Huang proposed "Embrace One Another … Together We Grow." The group approved the idea for the 2009 EthniCity Poster Contest Theme.

Michelle will look at additional ways to get more school participation. Flyers will be at City facilities and sent out with the e-Newsletter to the schools.

b. Troy School District Updates

1. Elementary Schools – Schroeder Elementary PTO presents "Multicultural Toolbox: Strategies for Raising our Children with Culture(s), Community and Pride.
2. High Schools – Michelle Haigt sent the Cultural Connection Calendar to Tim McAvoy. Cindy Stewart will forward to the Board.
   -Athens High Diversity Day – May 6th at 7 pm in the Auditorium. Includes food and entertainment. Free.
   - Baker Middle School Diversity Day – May 6, 8 am-1 pm for all students.

3. Smith Middle School had their Diversity Day on March 31.
4. Cultural Connections – Team Troy, 3-18-09 at Islamic Center of Greater Detroit. Nadeen Brown and Michael & Aretha Bradley represented the African American Voice and Asad Ali and Ali Lela from IAGD represented the Islamic Voice. 30 Troy administrators were in attendance. The next Cultural Connection will focus on the "Korean Voice" and will be held at the United Methodist Church. This will include a wrap-up evaluation.

c. Cultural Brochures

All will send Cindy information related to Chinese, Indian, Arabic/Chaldean brochures.

d. African American Support Group

The group meets the second Monday each month at the Troy School District Services Building.

VI. Staff Report

a. The translation of the Refuse/Recycling brochure has been completed in Chinese by Lily and her parents and in Arabic by Mayada.

VII. Member Comment

Reuben commended Michelle for helping diffuse a situation at a Middle School.

There is a consensus among the Board members that the Troy School District continues to embrace diversity and we can all keep learning and teaching our children (and adults) about diversity. The EIAB is making great strides in helping to facilitate diversity.

VIII. Adjournment 8:36 pm

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

Next Meeting Tuesday, June2, 2009 at 7 pm

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Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

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Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary