

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes for Tuesday, June 2, 2009**

I. Call to Order 7:05 pm

II. Roll Call

Present	Kelly Jones Karen Yelder Cathy Francois Mayada Fakhouri Sharon MacDonell John Witt Veena Rao Cindy Stewart, City Liaison
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Absent	Reuben Ellis Michelle Haight Lily Huang, Student Rep Aries Tao, Student Rep
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III. **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve April 14, 2009 minutes by Cathy Francois seconded by Kelly Jones.

IV. **Correspondence/Articles**

“On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Mexican dominance Irks other Latinos” - May 5, 2009, Associated Press.

“Justice for Walter Swift” Innocence Project

“Multicultural Multiracial Community Council Kicks Off Porch Parties”- May 22, 2008

“The Stoning of Soraya M” – Based on a true story- will be in theatres this July (only 11 cities). Cathy and her husband with other clergy were invited to a screening.

V. **Old Business**

Ethnicity Poster Contest - Information is on the City website and Cindy will send to

Troy Schools via the e-newsletter. Kelly suggested we ask Willie DeChavez to be a judge.

Elementary Schools - The new Diversity Coordinator is currently running a focus groups with Troy School District staff. They will eventually form a Diversity Council.

High School - Athens Ethnic Fair was well attended. Tim McAvoy expressed the need for translators/interpreters for the district to help new families assimilate into the community. He wants to compile a resource list. Has Tim tried the churches for contacts? Check police department, they had a list of interpreters.

African American Support Group – At the May meeting they recognized the 6 graduating seniors from Troy High and Athens. Michelle Baylor and her husband spoke to the group about their future. No meeting on June. Summer events being planned. Karen will keep us updated.

The Farmington and Farmington Hills Multicultural Multiracial (MCMR) Community Council sponsored a “Porch Party” on May 29 at 7 pm in downtown Farmington. Kelly will call the MCMR contact and report back to EIAB.

#### VI. **New Business**

a. Pointers for a Racism Free Community in Grand Rapids sponsored a community read on the book “Them” by Nathan McCall with a diversity consultant facilitating the group.

Michelle and Kelly would like to see if there is an interest in EIAB sponsoring a Book Club. Cindy will check Cathy Russ re: process/ideas for books. EIAB could come up with suggested book list and we could promote in Troy Today. Send ideas to Cindy by June 15

b. Translations for Refuse/Recycling Brochure – Currently, we have Arabic, Chinese and Russian translations. Cindy will send the flyer again to EIAB and The Board will ask contacts to help translate.

c. Cultural Celebration Day in Roseville - Kelly went (her daughter danced with their Polish Group). It was a Friday evening at 7 pm held at the High School and very well attended. Tables available for people/groups to promote their countries. Performers, dancers all evening on stage and vendors with food to purchase.

Kelly suggested we look into organizing an event like this. Mayada reminded the group this is exactly like the Sights and Sounds events we did a few years ago. We had Sights and Sounds of India, China, Italy, Arabic countries, etc. Also did a Sights and Sounds of the World which included many countries.

Kelly’s idea is to contact all PTO’s and ask if they’d be interested in being involved in a community- wide Diversity Celebration Event.

Currently schools having or will have Diversity Fairs are Leonard (Feb 2010), Schroeder (March), Athens, Baker and Barnard (May).

Kelly will draft a letter to send to PTO/PTA's. EIAB will discuss further at August meeting.

Senior Program - discuss at August meeting. We did this once a few years ago, Mayada was a speaker for the Arab culture.

Explore MI Roundtable or other organizations to help us with community events/programs. Tap into Universities or Community Colleges for information.

d. Cultural Brochures: (Email again to the Board).

Lily and Aries were working on gathering info for the brochure on China;

Veena – India and Mayada – Arab. Sharon compiled a lot on info on Japan.

## VII. **Adjournment**

Motion by Veena Rao, seconded by John Witt to adjourn at 8:36 pm

**Next Meeting Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7 pm**

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Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

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Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary