

**TROY ETHNIC ISSUES ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Minutes for October 6, 2009**

I. Call to Order 7:07 pm

II. Roll Call

Present      Kelly Jones  
                  Cathy Francois  
                  John Witt  
                  Sharon MacDonell  
                  Michelle Haight  
                  Karen Yelder  
                  Veena Rao  
                  Mayada Fakhouri  
                  David Guo, Student Rep  
                  Cindy Stewart, City Liaison

Absent        Reuben Ellis  
                  Lily Huang, Student Rep

III. Approval of Minutes – August 27, 2009

Motion by Michelle Haight  
 Seconded by Cathy Francois to approve the August 27, 2009 minutes.

IV. Correspondence - None

V. New Business

a. Diversity Dinner

Dinner to publicize to business community. Idea for keynote speaker: Dr. Sarab Neelam, Oceans of Pearl. Sterling Heights just held second diversity dinner (in September). Held at a banquet center, cost \$30, included family-style dinner with ethnic appetizers, entertainment, no alcohol. 300-400 people attended. Willie DeChavez organized. Draw was honoring people, not sure what for. Cindy will contact Willie to send us a program from the dinner.

Our Diversity Dinner could honor people (adults and youth) related to diversity. Example: Nadeem Brown, Dr. Neelam. (There is a three minute preview for his film). We could find business sponsors.

**Special Meeting on January 13, 7pm.** Determine sponsorships, location, honorees, main speaker (or Neelam). Possible dates: Thursday, May 20, 2010 or Thursday, May 13, 2010.

VI. Old Business

a. Troy Daze – EthniCity Poster Contest Wrap-Up

Suggestions/Comments: We had 14 entries and the four judges loved participating (Anru Chen, Patricia Eddy, Katie Skavoni and Willie DeChavez).

Participation could be low due to time of year. Suggest moving poster contest to May (Diversity Month). Judging in June or September for Troy Daze. Maybe display at Library or City Hall. Easier for school to have time to promote. Hopefully, we would get more entries.

Related to EthniCity at Troy Daze, we did not get a lot of comments related to where it was, why not here.

Motion to hold the Poster Contest in May made by Michelle Haight and seconded by Karen Yelder. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board agreed to hold the poster contest in May, publicize in February/March (Spring Break: April 2-11). PR: March/April, posters due end of April, judged first week of May, display rest of May and winners at Troy Daze Festival in September 2010.

b. School District updates

Kelly could not get a hold of Roslyn Cox to invite her to EIAB meeting. Her contract is up. Michelle Haight will contact Tim McAvoy about the information she compiled related to diversity.

c. Book Discussion Group

Should we wait? Kelly is a bit concerned with all going on in City right now. Michelle: it will be a Community Read, we might want to solicit help from other community nonprofit groups. There could be many different groups all reading the same book but at different times and in different places. People like our Board facilitating groups perhaps at library, Starbucks, places of worship, etc.

Kelly was thinking of choosing a book and have our EIA Board facilitate the book discussion. Where will we hold the discussions? Library, Community Center, City Hall. Decide on a book and get dates for Spring so it can be included in the Spring Troy Today.

d. African American Support Group, September 21 Meeting

Updates on programs: Math Excel and ACT prep classes. Good

participation in both classes (30 to 40 students). Had couple of speakers, including Ed Spillars, who is running for State House of Representatives (District 41). Also, Rochelle Williams, motivational speaker and counselor spoke to kids on excellence. Initially had 120 families on the email list.

e. Cultural Brochures/Translated Brochures

Kelly has one in Spanish and will send via email to Cindy.

Daniel finished information on Russia for cultural brochures. Will send to Cindy.

VII. Member Comment

EIAB chose Sat Basu as our volunteer of the year. Presented a Certificate of Appreciation at two events: Path Bhban event and Troy Interfaith Group Picnic. He was thrilled.

African Children's Choir had 500 people attend. Kelly and Michelle sponsored kids from the African Children's Choir at their homes. They brought three "suitcases" full of clothes for the kids.

Noel Night, December 5 at Detroit Cultural Center.

City of Southfield held an all world market (90 years) at the Southfield Pavilion last weekend. Entertainment, food, items for sale, and crafts. Kelly will get more information on the entertainers.

Michelle said TFEE said a non-teacher has never applied for a grant, but ok if Path Bhban applies for \$500 grant.

V. Adjournment 8:25 pm

Motion by John Witt, seconded by Kelly Jones. Meeting adjourned.

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

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Kelly Jones, EIAB Vice Chair

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Cindy Stewart, EIAB Recording Secretary