



The Alliance

Date: May 12, 2009

Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Faith Church

President: Marvin Younger

Present: Marvin Younger, Mary Yedinak, Bin Lim, Victor Orozco, Jauanna Jackson, Angela Taylor Perry, Jack Hyde

Absent: Lucia Rios (Ill), Natalie Avila, Norma Luna

Guest(s): none

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M. by President Marvin Younger. The new Board contact list was presented and edited for accuracy.

2. Minutes - The Minutes of the April 7, 2009 ACEH Board were reviewed and approved unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report - Our balance is \$1,093.87.

The balance is low, members are encouraged to keep up to date with their dues. It was approved that line item Treasurer's reports will be provided at the February, April, July and October Board meetings. This is to coincide with the fiscal quarters.

4. Board Member's Assignments:

Outreach – Marvin; Unity – Norma, Natalie; Membership – Angela; Events – Jauanna; Funds Development – Mary Y.; Communications – Victor (assisting Ann Weller).

5. Program development:

June 12 – Mitch Denison (Grand Rapids) will present the mission and activities of the Rosa Parks Organization. Mitch will bring some guests with him. Contact person – Marvin.

July 10 – Jack Hyde will coordinate a panel discussion on issues regarding disability.

August - The annual picnic will be a special event celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Alliance.

September 14 – Possibly a program done jointly with a local PTO on bullying.

October 9 – Amy (Otis) Director of International Education at Hope may headline a presentation on issues regarding the International students who attend Hope. The Rotary Club initiative with high school exchange students may be asked to participate.

6. New Business:

- CWIT Personal Care Product Baskets – deliver items to Victor's house (174 10th St.) – front porch. Bin will take items to CWIT on May 22.

- Juneteenth Celebration (19th) Kollen Park – we will have an informational booth 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. that also will offer activities for children.
- MAC TV promotion – Ann Weller and Marvin will participate in a program interview to be recorded on July 22. Their comments will focus on the mission of the Alliance and the celebration of our founding.
- Mayoral proclamation – Marvin has requested a Mayoral proclamation honoring the tenth anniversary of the Alliance.
- Tulipanes Celebration, we are working on sponsoring a film to honor the memory of Gary Pepe.
- Wish List – In light of our fiscal levels, it was moved, seconded unanimously passed that we ask Ann Weller to add a wish list in the Newsletter of items the Alliance would love to have donated. (Currently in need of a Public Address system and a computer-compatible DVD projector).

7. Old Business

- Marvin reported that the protests initiated by the Alliance influenced other advocacy groups to act in kind and cause the cancellation of a planned “Human Pinata” event at the B.O.B. in Grand Rapids. (See attached letter)

8. Announcements

May 13 Holland Christian Schools will present Community Fiesta 5:30 – 7:30 at the High School.

May 30 Holland (Near Margarita’s Restaurant on 17th St.) A Celebration of Multi-cultural Connections 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Alliance will have an informational table.

June 19 – The Juneteenth Celebration will be held at Kollen Park.

9. Discussion

How can we encourage peoples of diverse backgrounds to participate in the mainstream venues and activities in the Holland Area? How can we help affirm them in the face of subtle rejections?

Angela led further discussion on breaking down barriers between people of diverse backgrounds and experiences. It has to begin on a 1:1 level.

10. Adjournment 5:37

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by common consent.

Respectfully submitted
Jack Hyde, secretary



The Alliance

April 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony (ACEH) strongly protests the use of a “human piñata” as a part of a supposed celebration of the Mexican holiday, Cinco de Mayo. WSNX, the B.O.B., and any other groups, or individuals, associated with this Grand Rapids event should stop to consider the message they are sending to the public, especially Hispanics and Latinos.

A “human piñata” is not part of this event when it is celebrated in Mexico, and there’s no reason to do it in Grand Rapids. Violence against any people, and especially by the largely majority culture against a minority culture, is completely unacceptable.

Hispanics, particularly, are often the target of attacks in the United States with the rise of anti-immigrant sentiments. To have organizations such as yours doing this for laughs, and for the “sport” of it, is especially disturbing. For years, African Americans were made figures of fun and stereotyped in all kinds of objects and actions...including violence. That’s less acceptable in polite society today. Is it somehow now okay to act out against Hispanics?

Would you want Mexican people to celebrate the Fourth of July by whacking a figure of Uncle Sam? We doubt it.

The Alliance was founded 10 years ago in West Michigan to promote unity, justice, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity. We work hard to educate people about the many cultures we have in West Michigan, and to encourage respect for all people. We see nothing amusing—and everything disrespectful-- about this part of your Cinco de Mayo celebration.

Sincerely,

Marvin R. Younger
President,
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