

Inclusive Community Task Force  
March 5, 2008  
Minutes

Present: Linda Butler, Mary Kitchell, Mike Myers, Debbie Lee, Randy Podhaski, GP Foote, Amber Corrieri, Cherie Wandling, Bobby Hunter, Betsy Hoffman, Denise Denton, Barbara Woods, Jane Acker

Absent: Cheyrl Inyang, Chris Rehmann

Visitors: Valerie Castillo and Julio Espada, members of an ISU Multicultural Learning Community study group

1. Minutes of the February 13 meeting were approved.
2. Review of the draft documents prepared by Debbie Lee, Linda Butler, and Chris Rehmann
  - Thanks are in order for giving us such a strong foundation for our report!
  - Challenges
    - i. Do they represent what the forum participants and the other community members we've talked to had to say? Do the opportunities suggested address the challenges appropriately?
    - ii. Generally, the group felt that the themes were a good reflection of the input offered thus far. It was suggested that the "point of entry" concept could be used to describe important sites of connection to our community for newcomers, most particularly, schools.
    - iii. Age was suggested as an addition to the list in 1A., referring to ISU students, high school students, middle school students, as well as senior citizens.
    - iv. The Advocacy section should be either expanded or removed.
  - Opportunities
    - i. It was suggested that language be added to 2., Information and Resources, to address the issues of rumors and misinformation and how they are handled by citizens of our community. Is this covered adequately in 1F?
    - ii. We should remember that this is a working document. We hope that community members will have more opportunities to add!
  - Grid
    - i. If we attempt to complete this, not only does the format become very unwieldy, but we are certain to have erroneous and incomplete information.
    - ii. Thus, in lieu of a grid format, perhaps an appendix could be attached including the relevant information about services available.

- Additional Comments
  - i. Have the sensitivities of all in our community been respected in the language used? Can it be understood by all?
  - ii. The format and language of the report could engage individuals and groups in the community more directly by focusing on “points of contact,” i.e., those people and institutions who could most effectively implement a given action. Who should be responsible for improving the welcome offered by the Ames community? In some cases, it’s formal and informal institutions. In others, it’s individual community members. Our report should be specific.
  - iii. The public input sessions will be an important way to solicit community feedback on the report. To ensure full participation, we need a mechanism for submission of written comments for those who can’t participate in the April 3 and 5 meetings. It would also be helpful if those who participate in the public sessions can provide a written copy of their comments to ensure that they are accurately recorded. A comment form, organized by the “themes” of the report, might help participants structure their input.
  - iv. Debbie Lee will incorporate the suggestions made at this session into a new draft of the report, which she will circulate to task force members before she leaves for spring break and passes the baton to others.
  - v. Once the next draft of the report has been approved by the task force, at the March 26 meeting, it will be posted on the city website for community review prior to the input sessions. Susan Gwiasda will assist in making hard copies available at various locations and will work with local media sources to publicize it as well. Task force members are encouraged to make copies and pass them around prior to the public meetings to encourage both attendance at the meetings and written input before and after.
  - vi. Flyers publicizing the April 3 and 5 sessions were distributed for task force members to pass out. A PDF version of the flyer has also been forwarded to all task force members so that it can be shared electronically. Task force members are encouraged to spread the work actively (church bulletins, workplaces, schools, university departments, etc.)!

**NEXT MEETING: WORK SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19  
4:30 – 6:00 PM  
ROOM 135, AMES CITY HALL**

At this point, we are expecting Barbara, Amber, Randy, Mike, Betsy, Mary, and Jane. We will be working on the next draft of the report, which will be reviewed by the entire task force on

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26  
4:30 – 6:00 PM  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, AMES CITY HALL**