

Iowa WINS (Iowa Welcomes Immigrant Neighbors)

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Commission

**Wednesday, November 1 at 7:00 PM**

First Presbyterian Church

902 S. Walnut St

Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

OUR VISION:

That the greater Mount Pleasant community would be an inclusive and hospitable community that welcomes people from across the world looking for a new home.

In order to achieve that vision, the MISSION OF IowaWINs is to:

* Identify the issues that newcomers face here, to provide solutions and help integrate them with the community at large.
* Build relationships among the diverse members of our community.
* Build and maintain the infrastructures and sustainable programs that improve opportunity and services now and for future generations of immigrants.
* Provide educational and cultural outlets to the community to learn more about the people (and their needs) who come to Mount Pleasant.

Minutes

In attendance: Ed Kropa, Heidi Riepe, Jeff Fager, Lynn Ellsworth, Mike Riepe, Sam Riepe, Tammy Shull

* Citizenship tutoring
  + Joanne McCabe was unable to attend but reported that an immigrant had contacted Johanna Crawford about tutoring for his wife. Johanna has since make the contact with her and is setting up tutoring at the Public Library.
  + Also, she has distributed flyers to:
    - Hy-Vee
    - Jiffy Laundromat
    - Deb Batey
    - Iowa Wesleyan Student Development Office
    - Fellowship Cup
    - Quarter Store
    - Yenchay's
    - Public Library
    - Tia, children's library assistant
    - Iglesia church on Main Street
    - Sal Alaniz
    - Anna at Little Mexico
    - Jesus Es el Camino Church on East Monroe
  + Other suggestions for distribution of flyers include
    - Rec Center
    - Mt. Pleasant Foods Store location downtown
    - US Bank
    - Two Rivers Bank
  + Tammy reported that she had sent PDF’s of the flyers to West Liberty Foods and other local businesses through a Chamber contact. Also sent to SCC contacts, ISU Extension contacts, and local advocates. West Liberty Foods and ISU Extension confirmed that they were sharing the flyers with their employees/users.
* Fall/Winter Events
  + Friday, October 13th Chamber event - Pints in the Park – Chili Cookoff- review of event and ideas for similar events in future
    - Good opportunity to showcase our brand to the community, especially the tablecloth display
    - People were there for the chili rather than to learn about IowaWINs but still provided a presence.
    - Turnout lower than other years due to scheduling and threat of rain
    - The “diversity chili” option was helpful in gently reminding people of our purpose
    - Be sure and bring oyster crackers – cheap and people appreciated them
    - Two roasters with chili was a good amount.
    - Thanks to Mike and Heidi Riepe who also made chili for the event – sorry for the omission earlier.
  + Holiday Bazaar to support refugee/endangered groups in Greece and Guatemala on November 19th
    - Publicity plan
      * Lynn sent press releases to: KILJ, Mt. Pleasant News and the Burlington Hawkeye
      * Sam will contact the Chamber about placing on Chamber calendar and weekly newsletter
      * Sam will contact KILJ for Breakfast Club appearance
      * Sam will contact Emily about designing flyers, copies can be made by Esther at the church, and Sam will distribute.
      * Tammy to talk with Esther about including in Presbyterian and Methodist bulletins. Tammy also will arrange for announcements during Presbyterian Church services.
      * Tammy to talk with Pastor Trey about informing Ministerial Alliance.
      * Flyer should emphasize Fair Trade items from Greece and Guatemala and the Sunday date as there are two other “gift” events on Saturday by other organizations (H2Others and New London Community)
      * Sam will create a Facebook event for sharing
      * Tammy will ask Jean Church about using her yard for a sign and Tom Ellsworth volunteered to make and put up the sign
      * Tammy will send flyer and announcement to the IowaWINs broad email list.
    - Set-up and closing – assistance will be needed and Tammy will provide more information on timing closer to the event. Tammy to discuss with Diane Brooks and Stacey Hurlin.
    - Payment process – Tammy to discuss with Diane and Stacey

**Next meeting: Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Bring any ideas about films that we can screen for a January/February public event.**

Thanks,

Tammy Shull

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