

JUNTOS Adult Meeting
July 10, 2007, UNM-LA, 8:30-10:30 AM
Minutes

Attendees: Min Park, Marcia Brenden, Chis Lucero, Maurice de Segovia, Erwin Rivera, Alan Kirk, Wayne Torpy, Jim Anderson, Sharon Stover, Robert Gibson, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Diana Martinez, Janelle Vigil-Maestas, Cedric Page, Donna Schroeder, Bob Scott, Michelle Hall, Ben Sandoval, Lawry Mann, and youth; Marcos Vigil, and Nathana Bird.

Facilitator: Min Park began the meeting by repeating two quotations that he feels are appropriate for JUNTOS' vision: from A Course in Miracles, "The most sacred place on earth is where an ancient hatred becomes a present love." (Used at the last youth meeting) Also, from Jeremy Kasik's editorial letter printed in both towns' newspapers, "LA and Española teens are one in the same."

Congratulations and thanks to Dr. Cedric Page as the new Executive Director of UNM-LA and for hosting our fourth adult JUNTOS meeting today.

Introductions included a brief statement about why each person has chosen to be involved with JUNTOS. The comments were very moving and powerful. A special welcome to Chris Lucero, Ben Sandoval, and Lawry Mann.

Minutes from June 4 meeting were approved; moved by Robert and seconded by Donna.

Report from youth meeting on June 21, LAHS – Min summarized the minutes printed in the packet. There were nine youth attending and 13 adults, which included reporters from both newspapers. Students established ground rules for meetings and activities. There was a brainstorming session for JUNTOS' purposes, and small group discussions on what keeps youth from LA/E separate and what youth want to do to undo/dismantle separation. Jeremy Kasik read his draft for a letter-to-the-editor and got feedback. Nathana thinks that a lack of transportation is a problem for community exchanges. The next youth meeting will be on Tuesday, July 31st at NNMC from 10:00-1:00 with pizza.

Habitat for Hounds report, July 7 – Nathana, Marcos, Sharon, and Lori all gave glowing reports of the first activity for JUNTOS; collaborating with the Teen Center in La Puebla and Joan Logghe, the activity coordinator. Craig Girrens also helped build high class dog houses and then paint them with bright colors and graffiti. All day Ursula Coyote and her crew filmed a documentary on the proper care of dogs and animal rights. There was lots of food and many youth and adults participating in this profound project. Six beautiful and unique dog houses were completed by afternoon. Lori passed around pictures of the event.

Michelle Hall, Science Education Solutions, presented information on her youth project, Café Scientifique for Young Adults in Los Alamos, Española Valley, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque. Youth will learn about how science and technology are affecting them, talk with other youth, blog and create web pages on issues, decide to make a difference by acting on their new knowledge and become leaders. NNMC is a partner and will host a round theatre. UNM-LA and the Bradbury Museum are partners in LA. A van will provide transportation between communities for youth. Michelle would like to find ways to collaborate with JUNTOS and offered to help with JUNTOS grant proposals. (She is a grant writer and reviewer.) We welcome Michelle's participation with JUNTOS.

Diana talked about the new teen center in Española which should be open in October. It is in the building that KSL has been remodeling for some years across from the senior center.

Johanna Eager Training Proposal (issues of race and racism) was discussed and approved (details in packet). Alan Kirk suggested having two sessions, one for youth and one for adults. Lori will check with Johanna. We also need to decide on a date this fall. Lori will research a few suggestions and get back to the youth and adult groups.

Maurice and Nathana reported on United States Social Forum that they attended in Atlanta, GA. It actually is a world-wide initiative that gives a voice to those who are marginalized throughout the world. There is a grassroots effort in the SW, USA. Workshops included information on conflict resolution, which identified personality styles in dealing with problems, and media and the hip hop culture, which creates personal forms of media (music, poetry) that exposes issues.

Sub-Committee Reports (Members listed on the back of the agenda in packet):

- Adults Coaching Youth activities – We have people lined up to work on the proposed youth summit and editorials, but none on the murals yet.
- Educational Leadership – Long-term effort for concurrent classes. Marcia will take the lead and make the initial contact with SFCC. They have a model that we can use to create ours.
- Media – newspapers and radio reports – Min suggested that we work on a marketing strategy. We have had great coverage in the local papers (copies in packets). Nathana, Maurice, Min, and Lori were interviewed on KRSN in LA on July 5th. (Suggestion for creating a JUNTOS logo and copyrighting it.)
- Funding – Robert reported on the following:
 1. After researching a few suggested organizations including NNMC, Robert proposed that LA JJAB be the JUNTOS fiscal agent. The main reasons are for the ease and simplicity of accessing money. This was approved unanimously.
 2. Discussion of grants and other monies included the following:
 - United Way grant - Min Park is writing the grant asking for \$10,000 for 3 years.
 - Case Foundation grant - Ron Martinez identified this opportunity and Lori will make initial contact on-line with help from Michelle Hall, Marcia, and Ron.
 - Richard Cook - Lawry Mann set up a meeting for tomorrow to talk with Mr. Cook about financial and other support. He has great ideas and an interest in joint projects between E/LA.

Mission/Vision Statements discussion included the following thoughts:

- Equal, open, inclusive, joining
- Promoting mutual cooperation
- Cross cultural understanding
- “La Cultura cuda” sp? – the culture cures
- Educating
- Developing relationships through the arts
- **Marcia** suggested that we make a slight change in the JUNTOS name, changing the phrase from “Joining and Uniting. . .” to “Joining and Understanding. . .” Lori will get the word out for a vote.
- For the mission statement **Ben** suggested, “Unite communities by integrating cultures and embracing diversity.”
- **Min** and his committee will send out final ideas for approval

There was a discussion of who will present historical perspective of the different cultures and places. President Jose Griego, NNMC, has offered to do a two hour presentation on Hispanic history with music. Sharon suggested that we ask Georgia Strickfadden to present LA history. Erwin has connections with Tewa women who he thought would be very interested in getting involved. Erwin said he would make the contact. He suggested contacting the Pajarito Homesteader to tell their story. In addition, Erwin told us about the Youth 2020 initiative (a political action committee for youth), which his daughter is leading. There are 1,000 youth voices being recruited in NM from which 100 state youth leaders will be chosen.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria books are available for checking out to read. LA JJAB bought eleven books for JUNTOS members to use. Johanna Eager suggested that any Anglos reading the book should put themselves into the problem of racism, not just thinking about “those poor people.” Racism affects all of us.

Ben is working on the benchmarking of potential collaborating organizations, along with Laura Abeyta and Olga Schifani.

The next youth meeting is on Tuesday, July 31st at NNMC in room AD 101 from 10:00am-1:00pm. Marcia will contact Maurice (who had to leave the meeting early) if he would be in charge of organizing and coaching a youth from Española to facilitate the meeting. Marcia and Janelle will assist.

The next adult meeting will be on Tuesday, August 14th from 8:30-10:30 am in room AD 101.

Recorder: Lori Heimdahl Gibson (with assistance from Robert Gibson), lorihg@swcp.com
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