

TAAM Board - Meeting Minutes for March 4th, 2006 (11 AM through 1.30 PM)

Attendees: Serpil Metin, Pinar Tutuncu, Teslime Davies, Deniz Kalayci, Engin Kalayci and Nergis Peterson

The following social events were reviewed, discussed and planned:

1. Kurban Bayrami

The event was held at Daria's Mediterranean Café on January 15th. There were roughly about 85 people in the event. Turnout was larger than expected. The overall cost of this event to TAAM was around \$300.

2. Brunch

Brunch will be held at Enjoy Restaurant, Apple Valley. As of March 4th, there are about 44 people that RSVP. Out of the 44 people, 33 are adults and 11 are children. Even if there's a last minute turnout of more than 44, the restaurant –the capacity of the room given to TAAM- should handle more than 44 easily.

One idea that was brought up is to find out ideas about the Brunch from the people attending the event. In other words, is Brunch event well received in our organization, our people would like to see some other type of event instead. **Action Item 1** Teslime will talk to people informally and try to gage their overall feeling about “Brunch” event. We will also try to enlist new members during the Brunch event if they're not already signed up for TAAM membership.

3. Children's Day

Pinar Tutuncu is leading this effort. It looks like the capacity of the room picked for this event is 60 people. Consequently, Pinar Tutuncu proposed that priority should be given to children if the turn out is very good. In other words, instead of having both parents attend the meeting, one of the parents can attend along with their children in order to have much more children enjoying the event. Meeting will run from 11 AM to 1 PM. Several other members shown certain interest with the planning and organization of this event. The work was delegated to several people, although specifics can change.

Pinar Tutuncu will handle the food part of the work on the event day. At this point, we're considering cheese pizza, juice, cookie; most likely sourced from Sam's Club.

Pinar Akal can execute the task of getting wristbands for kids participating in the drawing/essay activity. This is discussed as an incentive for children to participate in this activity. Hence, children who participate will receive a wristband, with “Turkiye” in a certain texture/pattern. Alternatively, we can give the options to parents if they want to purchase any amount in exchange of a certain price during the event. This is one way to accommodate the cost of wristbands to TAAM, which early estimates are in the amount of \$1-2 per wristband; although price may go down depending upon the bulk quantity purchased. Pinar Akal will coordinate this effort in discussion with Pinar Tutuncu.

Serpil and Lisa Vervena will coordinate the “crafts” activities. One such activity is to decorate wooden or cardboard (poster board) sheep figures (**Action Item 2** Esra to let Pinar Tutuncu and Serpil to know about the cost of wooden sheep figures) with cotton balls. It is even possible to

use such sheep figures for the Bazaar exhibition part of the Festival of Nations. Serpil will try cutting sheep figures from poster board that she already has. Serpil will talk to Amy Sletten to find out if she would be interested to run the activity of making bracelets or some other type of wearable item using the beads that Ilgin is bringing from Turkey through a relative. Nergis also proposed that as another activity, her children can dance Turkish folklore dances. Pinar Tutuncu will coordinate the program of all these activities, and activity leaders will run the show. Also **Action Item 3** Nergis will talk to Suna Ozdemir about face painting as an activity for the children in the event.

A donations box can be used in this event. Perhaps during promotion of this event to TAAM list, we may consider phrasing some statement about “donations are welcomed in this event” in an attempt to let people know about it early on. Invitations should go out within the next 10 days and a deadline should be set for April 16th. **Action Item 4** Pinar Tutuncu will write the invitation draft and Serpil will email it to TAAM list.

4. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner / July Picnic

Nergis brought up Mediterranean Cruise in Eagan as a possible venue for this event. There has been TAAM activities in that place in the past. The most appropriate time frame for this event is between June 2nd and 11th on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, late afternoon early evening. Teslime will call this place and find more about it. Based on the number of people attended the event last year, the likely number for this year is around 100 people. Other options are Istanbul Bistro, or perhaps Casbian Restaurant.

The July picnic is also coordinated by Teslime. She is looking into picnic areas owned by metro area cities. One of the options she is looking into right now is Highland Park. It is essential that the picnic area has a shelter section in case of rainy situation. At this point, we are considering either July 9th or July 16th for this event. TAAM will likely provide hamburgers, sausage, buns and refreshments. In addition, it will again be a potluck event this year as people will bring and share their food with other people.

5. Apple Picking

Nergis will organize this event, however Esra will let the board know more about grape picking option. During the board meeting, Serpil was not sure about the details of the grape picking available somewhere in metro area.

6. Republic Day Dinner

Nothing specific about this event at this point. Nergis mentioned several locations such as U of M Alumni Center, Coffman Union – Mississippi Room, University Club – Summit Avenue. Nergis will call the last one and find more details i.e. price, availability, capacity etc. The most likely day is October 28th.

7. Festival of Nations

The menu is submitted to FON organizing committee. It is very similar to last year’s menu, which was very well received. Social Committee has been meeting regularly in regards to FON event for the last several months. Exhibition theme is Grand Bazaar, preparations are underway. We won’t be able to present the Fashion Show from Ankara Olgunlasma Enstitusu due to some budget constraints. Nevertheless, we were notified that they will be in Chicago for a different event in

September and hence there's still a possibility that within the right opportunity and theme, we can try hosting them here. Nergis will try to find information about any fashion shows taking place in September in the metro area.

We will again be seeking volunteers this year. So far, Ilgin, Teslimne, Ipek, Deniz and Serpil will execute the enrollment of volunteers. We've an extensive list from last year, however depending upon the situation related to Bazaar (where items such as jewelry, clothing etc. are sold for profit) we may need even more people to volunteer for different activities all throughout the four days of the event.

Up to this point, this was the information related to the discussions about social events that are in planning stage (except item #1).

In addition, we've received an inquiry about "Turkish Art and Culture Day at U of M" planned for April 20th, 2006 by Zuleyha Colak. She has asked TAAM to have someone that will represent the organization in the event and talk about our activities etc. Serpil suggested that we can talk to Can Akgun about this and perhaps distribute the latest copy of "Sohbet" newsletter.

Aside from these discussions, we went over some other items such as membership. Engin will be overseeing the membership database. We're planning on sending emails for the paid members and a friendly reminder for the members that did not renew their memberships for this year.

Financial review was not discussed in this meeting. TAAM Treasurer Esra Riggs could not make it to the meeting. She is however working on this and will present it in the near future.