

MINUTES
Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

Wednesday, October 5 2011, 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room A, City Hall, 50 W. 13th Street,

Present: Dick Landis, Jeff Jochum, Jill Connors, Joyce Connors, Kevin Lynch, Pat McNamara, Betty Phillips, Larrisa Filimonenko

Staff present: Kevin Firnstahl

1. Election of Vice Chairperson: Upon nomination by Joyce Connors and unanimous vote, Kevin Lynch was elected to the position of Vice Chairperson.
2. Approval of Minutes for June 8, 2011 Meeting; Motion by Phillips to approve the June 8, 2011 minutes as submitted. Seconded by Joyce Connors. Motion carried 8-0.
3. Discussion of Different Meeting Dates and Times: The Commission discussed keeping the meetings on Wednesdays and change the time to 4:30 p.m. as the best option for the near future. Motion by Joyce Connors, Seconded by McNamara. Motion carried 8-0.
4. City Council Goals and Priorities: Firnstahl stated that the City Council's goals and priorities were distributed for reference and use when planning events and establishing the Commission's goals particularly in the area of arts and culture. Landis suggested extending the Art on the River request for artists to our Sister Cities contact for information and possible participation. Firnstahl will follow up with Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Jan Stoffel.
5. Communication Plan to Establish and Maintain Connections: Landis suggested that Commissioners can begin collecting information they believe our Sister Cities would be interested in and submit it to Kevin Firnstahl. He will compile the information for distribution by e-mail to Sister Cities about once per month. Suggestions included copies of event brochures, City and agency newsletters, hyperlinks to area happenings and other publications.
 - a. Commissioner Areas of Interest: Discussion and adjustment. Landis will perform as a member of each category.
 - i. Education (Castaneda, Ward, Thurn)
 - ii. Arts (Castaneda, Coty, Joyce C., Ward)
 - iii. Hospitality (Castaneda, Lynch, McNamara, Phillips, Thurn)
 - iv. Economic Development (Jochum, Lynch, Jill C. McNamara)
 - v. Sports (Filimonenko, Jochum, Lynch)
6. Dornbirn, Austria – Future Dubuque Delegation Visit: The Commission is waiting to hear from the Mayor and Mrs. Buol regarding their schedule for late May or early June, following the University of Dubuque's graduation. Firnstahl will

correspond with Ralf Hammerle in Dornbirn and inquire about the appropriate size of the delegation.

7. Pyatigorsk Park Signage / Voetberg Memorial: Landis and Jochum will follow up with Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware about combining efforts for a park sign and an interpretive sign similar to those used on the River Walk. Landis stated that Nick Lucy is thought to be working on a memorial to Dirk Voetberg for placement within the 4th Ward.
8. Items from Commission
 - a. National Committee on U.S. China Relations – China Forum November, 16, 2011: Contact Dick Landis for more information.
 - b. Mississippi River Theme Exchange, September 27-30, 2011: Phillips recapped the event stating that about 30 people visited the area over several days, which included the Quad Cities and St. Louis.
 - c. Other: Jochum will contact Jim and Nancy Rhomberg about reporting on their trip to Dornbirn, Austria, in August.
9. Items from Staff
 - a. Budget: Firnstahl reported that Fiscal Year 2011 budget balance was approved for carryover for a balance of \$9,026.
 - b. Sister Cities International: Annual Conference, Jacksonville, Florida, July 12-14, 2011

10. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 4:30 p.m. Conference A, City Hall.

Adjournment: Motion by McNamara to adjourn at 5:07 p.m. Seconded by Joyce Connors. Motion carried 7-0 (Jill Connors having left the meeting earlier).

Submitted by
Kevin S. Firnstahl
City Clerk