

Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2015

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: City Hall – Conference Room A, 50 W. 13th Street, Dubuque

Minutes

Present: Sheila Castaneda, Joyce Connors, Jeffrey Jochum, Dick Landis, Phyllis Lee, Betty Phillips, Louise Thurn, Richard Van Iten, Annalee Ward, City Staff Person Trish Gleason

Absent: Patrick McNamara, Bob Felderman, Kevin Lynch, Bryan Zygmont

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 24, 2015 meeting: Motion by Ward. Seconded by Lee. Motion carried 9-0.
2. Financial Report – \$5,028.10 (Adjusted). FY16 Budget \$5,680, plus Carryover of \$250 for Handan Delegation, less payments to GDDC for Handan expenses and goal setting refreshments of \$136.90, less anticipated SCI dues \$765.
3. Goal Setting Follow Up:
 - a. Corrections to the draft presentation to be presented at the September 21, 2015 City Council meeting were discussed.
 - b. Motion by Ward to use the purpose statement from Ordinance No. 57-15 as the Sister City Mission Statement with a tag line based on commissioner Felderman's summary statement. Seconded by Thurn. Motion carried 9-0.
4. Dornbirn, Austria:
 - a. A Newspaper article on the Rhomberg visit to Dornbirn was discussed.
 - b. Commissioner Jochum is working with Rolf regarding publishing an article on the Mt. Calvary cemetery.
5. Handan, China
 - a. Commissioner Landis reported that delegates from Handan, China were invited to attend the 8th Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference. With such short notice no delegates will be able to attend. An invitation for next year's conference will be extended earlier.
 - b. The Humanities Iowa Grant has been submitted. Humanities Iowa has requested that more information regarding the number of attendees at each location be submitted. Commissioner Landis will be compiling this information for submittal.
 - c. Discussion was had regarding the creation of an inventory of framed photos of Dubuque to be presented as gifts to visiting delegates or when traveling abroad.
 - d. Gleason informed commission of a soon to be addition to the City of Dubuque Sister City web page where a portion of the Handan photos will be displayed with their mirrored

counterpart from Dubuque. Commission suggested looking into the possibility of using this artwork in the Fall Into Art either this year or next.

6. Pyatigorsk, Russia

a. This sister city relationship has been rekindled. Commissioner Jochum has corresponded with the new Mayor, Lev Travnev, formerly Council of Deputies Travner.

b. A request from the Pyatigorsk Park of Culture and Recreations for a piece of art work was discussed. The cost of shipping the art work is not in the current budget. Commissioner Jochum will respond to the request to let them know that Dubuque is looking into the process, but that not promises can be made at this time. Commissioner Landis will work with Dubuque's Arts and Cultural Affairs Coordinator Debra Aleyne to see if any arrangements are possible.

7. Pen Pal:

a. Commissioner Thurn has reached out unsuccessfully to a local school regarding participating in the pen pal program. Thurn will follow up in person to discuss the option further.

b. Thurn has spoken with a teacher of English/Chinese languages from Wahlert Catholic High School regarding incorporating the 90 some students in her classes to the pen pal program.

8. Library Archive and Display Update- Landis reported that the Handan, China trip photos will be used in the display case at the Carnegie - Stout Library for the month of November.

9. Items from the Commission:

a. Dubuque's Taste of the World will be held on April 9, 2016. It is suggested that the Sister City Commission have an information booth at this event.

b. Landis reported that April, 2016 will be the Dubuque Julien Film Festival and the possibility of having international films come into the festival as an event on the side.

c. A tourism package is being put together by the Convention and Visitors Bureau to encourage tourism to the cities along the Mississippi with French heritage in partnership with the Francophone and Francophile Cities Network.

10. Next Meeting: Regular meeting on November 18th

11. Adjournment: Motion by Thorn to adjourn at 5:11 p.m. Seconded by Jochum. Motion carried 8-0. (Castaneda having left the meeting at 4:36 p.m.)

Submitted by Trish L. Gleason, Assistant City Clerk