

**MINUTES**  
**Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**  
**4:00 p.m., Conference Room A, City Hall**

Chairman Landis called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: Council Member Joyce Connors, Commissioners Landis, Jochum, Castenada, McNamara, Thurn, Phillips

Absent: Council Member Lynch, Commissioners Coty, Connors, Flimonenko, McIntee, Ward

**Election of Vice Chairperson**

Postponed to next meeting. Firnstahl reported that it is possible for the Council representatives to hold a commission office.

**Minutes** for April 4, 2011 were approved as submitted.

**Dornbirn, Austria, Delegation Visit Update and Follow up:**

Commissioners involved with the visit reported on its success, good commissioner coverage and media exposure (KWWL). Mayor Buol has approved the proclamation beginning the official Sister City process with Dornbirn. Firnstahl will send two copies to Dornbirn for their signature. A copy of Dornbin's City Guide was distributed for review. A delegation from Dubuque to Dornbirn is now expected at some future date.

**Communication Plan to Establish and Maintain Connections**

Handan, China: Landis will send a communication

Pyatigorsk, Russia/Pyatigorsk Park. Communication with Pyatigorsk is needed. The Commission discussed possible signage/branding for the park at 16<sup>th</sup> Street and Kerper with possible interpretive/educational signage. A memorial to former Council Member Dirk Voetberg was considered with ideas including a gazebo along the Bee Branch Creek Restoration Project and revisiting the sculpture originally submitted by Pyatigorsk designers. (photo distributed)

Dornbirn, Austria (in progress)

Trois-Rivieres, Quebec (for discussion at a later date)

Commissioner discussed ideas for best organizing continued communication with the Sister Cities that included dividing up by focus areas or function such as athletics, communication, economic development, etc., or by subcommittees for each City.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Commissioners should come prepared with ideas for structuring this for the next meeting.

**Russian Exchange Student – Stravropol/Pyatigorsk:**

Landis reported on the fund raiser at St. Luke's to help underwrite exchange students. Dick is helping promote the event. If you are interested in attending or helping, please contact Dick.

**Items from Commission:**

Castenada reported on the Boards and Commissions Intercultural Communications session held recently stating that they were well done. They will be repeated in September if anyone was unable to attend or missed a session.

Phillips reported that the Friendship Force is looking to collaborate with the Commission. They will be part of a Mississippi River-themed exchange September 27-30, 2011 and are looking for host families. If you are interested in volunteering as a host, please contact Betty.

Landis spoke about establishing Commission archives. Firnstahl reported on what information is currently archived at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library and in storage due to the renovation. A display case had once been used for some items and could be reconsidered from the Commission's budget.

Thurn reported on Abd el-Kader Education Project (Elkader, Iowa) stating that it is an essay contest where students who have read el-Kader's book write about how it would impact their life now. Two Wahlert students have entered and winners will be announced May 14.

**Next meeting:**

June 1 at 4:00 p.m. in Conference Room A at City Hall. Landis suggested beginning to meet every two months after that.

**Adjournment:** 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by Kevin S. Firnstahl, Acting City Clerk