

SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS ADVISORY COMMISSION

DATE: Wednesday, July 18, 2012
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: City Hall – Lower Level, 50 W. 13th Street, Dubuque

MINUTES

Present: Larissa Filimonenko, Louise Thurn, Phyllis Lee, Annalee Ward, Dick Landis, Betty Phillips, Jeff Jochum; Council Members Joyce Connors and Kevin Lynch

Also present: Nancy Rhomberg

Absent: Sheila Castaneda, Michael Coty, Pat McNamara, Jill Connors

1. Call to Order by Chairperson Landis

2. Approval of Minutes for May 16, 2012, Meeting

Motion by Connors to approve the May 16, 2012 minutes. Seconded by Thurn. Motion carried 9-0.

3. Monthly Newsletters & Correspondence Update:

Landis reported on the invitation Mayor Buol received from Mayor Travnev of Pyatigorsk, Russian, inviting him to Pyatigorsk's 232nd birthday celebration. A response has been drafted and translated. Firnstahl will send the response via e-mail. Jochum stated that there has been a recent push in Pyatigorsk to encourage tourism. Landis reported that he has had communication with his contacts in Handan, China. He added that official invitations to attend or speak at Dubuque activities and conferences could be sent to Sister City Contacts and that perhaps some delegation costs could be reimbursed through the Commission.

4. Dornbirn, Austria – October 2012 Dubuque Delegation Visit Update:

Firnstahl provided an update on the delegation stating 11 people are confirmed as part of the group. Guest Nancy Rhomberg provided information on her trip to Dornbirn last year and that five members of Rhomberg family are traveling along. Firnstahl is confirming transportation and accommodations with Dornbirn as well as how many packets to prepare. Landis said that small gifts indicative of Dubuque are best. Phillips will contact the colleges to gather information to include. Firnstahl will gather information from the City and partnering agencies. Commissioners are encouraged provide information that can be included in the packets. It was suggested that the next commission meeting focus on the delegation details.

5. Pyatigorsk Park Signage:

Landis reported that the metal interpretive signage is consistent with the signage used in other city locations such as the Riverwalk. The signage is complete and will be installed soon by Leisure Services.

6. Library Archive and Display:

Landis reported that he and Commissioners Thurn and Phillips meet with the staff of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library about display of appropriate Sister City memorabilia and information. He stated the Library has display cases in the coffee shop area off the Rotunda area where items could be displayed on a rotation basis with Friendship Force. Personal items that Commissioners may have are acceptable for display. The Library cannot archive items

unless a controlled climate is necessary. An alternative location will need to be determined for storing books donated by Sister Cities. Connors suggested contacting local history teachers to see what information might be of interest to students and Library patrons.

7. Items from Commission:

If any Commissioners are interested in receiving e-mails from Sister States, please let Jeff Jochum (jjochum@htlf.com) know and he can forward them. Landis reported on the Hebei Province Committee meeting schedule for July 28 in Des Moines. Firnstahl was asked to follow up on the Sister City International Conference bid with the Convention and Visitors bureau.

8. Items from Staff:

The City Clerk's Office staff continues to work toward a Sister City web page on the City's web site.

9. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 4 p.m.

10. Adjournment: Upon motion, the commission adjourned at 4:56 p.m. to discuss the Dornbirn delegation.

Richard Landis, Chairperson

Submitted by Kevin S. Firnstahl, CMC, City Clerk