

Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

DATE: Wednesday, November 14, 2012

TIME: 4:00 PM

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

Minutes

Present: Sheila Castenada, Joyce Connors, Larrissa Filimonenko, Jeffrey Jochum, Dick Landis, Phyllis Lee, Pat McNamara, Betty Phillips, Louise Turn,

Absent: Michael Coty, Kevin Lynch, Annalee Ward

1. **Approval of Minutes for September 9, 2012, Meeting**

Motion by Lee to approve the September 9, 2012 meeting minutes. Seconded by Castenada. Motion carried 9-0.

2. **Dornbirn, Austria –Dubuque Delegation Visit – October 22-25, 2012.**

Landis and Firnstahl described the events of the delegation's visit and shared materials from the trip. Dornbirn's promotional video was played for the Commission. Firnstahl stated that an article about the visit will appear in the December issue of Julien's Journal, and he will check on the possibility of article in the next issue of City News. Landis stated that Dornbirn is planning another visit to Dubuque in 2013 and that the Commission should explore the topics of student exchanges, government relations and citizen input, sustainability, and historic preservation.

3. **Monthly Newsletters & Correspondence (on-going)**

a. Pyatigorsk: Jochum reported on the correspondence received from Jeff Walters of Iowa Sister States about the upcoming visit to Des Moines from Dimitriy Vasyutkin of Pyatigorsk, November 30-December 8. Mr. Walters is willing to help arrange a meeting with members of the Sister City Commission noting that December 2 is the best time for the meeting in Des Moines. It was suggested that Mr. Walters come and speak to the Commission about Sister States and the Pyatigorsk relationship.

b. Handan: Anniversary Committee member Landis reported on the 30th anniversary year of the Sister States relationship that Iowa has had with the Chinese province of Hebei, which is where the Sister City of Handan is located. A handout was provided explaining the year-long activities tentatively planned by the Anniversary Committee, and discussion was given to how Dubuque might incorporate its Sister City relationship into the activities scheduled for the Des Moines and Muscatine areas. Landis and Firnstahl will work on completing and submitting the participation form. Landis will attend a meeting of the Anniversary Commission on December 3 in Des Moines. He also reported on a possible 2013 visit to Dubuque by Handan's Mayor and a reciprocal invitation to Mayor Buol.

4. **Library Archive and Display – Update:**

Commissioners Phillips, Thurn, Jochum and Landis will meet after the Thanksgiving holiday to

begin plans on a Sister City display at the Library that will include much of the information and official proclamation from Dornbirn.

5. Items from Commission

The Commission suggested recording a City Journal episode documenting the delegation's visit to Dornbirn. Firnstahl will communicate the Public Information Officer Randy Gehl.

6. Items from Staff

- a. Web page development: Firnstahl reported that the Sister City web page is nearly ready to publish to the City's web site. A slide show of pictures from Dornbirn is being added. It should be ready next week, and commissioners are asked to view it and provide feedback and any historical information they may have on Pyatigorsk and Handan.
- b. Membership and Vacancies: Firnstahl provided an update on the current membership and term expirations. Commissioner Coty submitted an e-mail addressing concerns over his inability to attend meetings. Firnstahl will contact him about the option of reapplying when his term ends in February 2013.

7. Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 9, 2013, 4:00 p.m., City Hall Conference Room A.

8. Adjournment: 5:03 p.m.

Motion by Thurn. Seconded by Lee. Motion carried 9-0.

Richard Landis, Chairperson

Prepared by Kevin S. Firnstahl, CMC, City Clerk