

Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

TIME: 4:15 PM

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

Unofficial Notes (no quorum)

Present: Dick Landis, Larissa Filimonenko, Jeffrey Jochum, Phyllis Lee, Kevin Lynch, Patrick McNamara, Louse Thurn

Absent: Sheila Castaneda, Betty Phillips, Annalee Ward

1. Firnstahl administered the Oath of Office for Louise Thurn.
2. Development of By-Laws – Follow Up: A draft was distributed for discussion at the next meeting.
3. Bryant School/ Dornbirn – E-Pal Project: Commissioner Thurn reported on the project she's been working on with matching students from Bryan Elementary School with comparable students in Dornbirn. This involved the sharing of packages by mail and e-mail pictures. Louise hopes to expand the project to more schools.
4. Library Archive and Display – Landis will solicit help from the Commission in placing a Handan exhibit in the Library display space.
5. Sister Cities Relationships Updates
 - a. Handan, China: Landis reported that reciprocal mayoral visits would be best and raised the idea of an English language teacher exchange. Landis will draft an invitation from Mayor Buol to the Mayor of Handan.
 - b. Pyatigorsk, Russian: Filimonenko and Jochum will draft an invitation from Mayor Buol to Pyatigorsk.
 - c. Dornbirn, Austria – Landis reported that the full delegation visit is now canceled. We will invite them to visit in September during the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference and the Iowa League of Cities Conference. (Note: The Dornbirn City Manager will make a personal visit on May 11 & 12. Details to follow as they are known).
6. Items from Commission:
 - a. Landis encouraged Commissioners to connect with any contacts they know at the colleges, local towns, etc., to cultivate some international business opportunities and visits.
 - b. Thurn reported on the Old House Enthusiasts' tour in the Historic Millwork District on May 18 & 19.
 - c. McNamara report that Gene Tully and Tim McNamara are requesting nontraditional artwork for the eight-week Voices exhibit and would like an international presence. Gene Tully will contact Kevin Firnstahl.

7. Items from Staff: Firnstahl reminded the Commission that there are still two vacancies that need to be filled and encouraged members to refer potential members. The vacancies make establishing a quorum difficult.
8. Next Meeting: Firnstahl will poll the commission for May 8 or 16. (NOTE: May 8th at 4:00 p.m. has been established)
9. Discussion ended at 5:08 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Kevin S. Firnstahl, CMC, City Clerk