

Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

DATE: Wednesday, May 15, 2013

TIME: 4:00 PM

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

Minutes

Present: Dick Landis, Joyce Connors, Annalee Ward, Larissa Filimonenko, Betty Phillips, Jeff Jochum, Pat McNamara, Kevin Lynch, Phyllis Lee, Louise Thurn

Excused: Sheila Castaneda

1. Receipt of Unofficial Notes for March 13, 2013.
2. Oath of Office – Betty Phillips was administered by City Clerk Kevin Firnstahl.
3. Sister Cities Relationships Updates
 - a) Pyatigorsk, Russia: Commissioner Jochum will draft a letter for Mayor Buol inviting a representative to the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference, September 23-24, and the Iowa League of Cities Conference, September 25-27, in Dubuque.
 - b) Handan, China: Chairperson Landis referenced the letter Mayor Buol received from Mayor Hui Jian of Handan City referencing the 30th Anniversary with Hebei Province and promoting cooperation between our two cities.
 - Iowa Sister States 30th Anniversary Year: Landis provided a brief update on events surrounding state-level activities, which we continue to hope will involve Dubuque.
4. Dornbirn, Austria
 - a. Recap of visit by City Manager Werner Summer: Landis, Thurn, Lee and Phillips provided a highlights on Mr. and Mrs. Summers' visit to Dubuque, which included a short tour of the city, attendance at the Kiwanis Club Sister City presentation, Bryant School/Dornbirn student exchanges, a visit to Mt. Calvary Cemetery, dinners with the Sister City Commission, City Council, and the Dubuque City Manager. Landis suggested that the slide presentation used at the Kiwanis Club meeting be expanded for use with other groups such as Rotary and Jaycees. I was suggested by Kiwanis member and Council Member Ric Jones to provide a work session to the City Council on Sister Cities.
5. Development of By-Laws – Follow Up: Motion by Phillips to adopt the by-laws as drafted by Jochum. Seconded by Ward. Motion carried 10-0.
6. Bryant School/ Dornbirn – Thurn stated that she hopes to expand the program to other classes and may explore the E-Pals program.
7. Library Archive and Display – Follow Up: Landis stated that the display coincided with the Library's art exhibit and will change over to Friendship Force for June/July. The Sister City exhibit will begin again for August/September and will exhibit information on Pyatigorsk, Russia.
8. Items from Commission: Louise will contact Gene Tully about international contacts for the Voices from the Warehouse exhibits. Landis asked Firnstahl to follow up the Eva Thurnher in Dornbirn about one of their teachers requesting to study in Dubuque.

9. Items from Staff

- a. Membership and Vacancies: Firnstahl reminded the Commission that there are still two vacancies on the commission. The City Clerk's Office has received an application, which will go before Council on June 17.
- b. Recap of visit with Ann Geiger of Sister Cities International: Firnstahl provided information and suggested provided by Ms. Geiger who stopped by on her way from Elkader. Ms. Geiger encouraged attendance at SCI conferences that might help in planning a conference in Dubuque, suggested exploring programs offered on the SCI web page or other related sites such as E-Pals, Open World Program, and the US Center for Citizen Diplomacy. Jochum suggested collaborating with Sister States first.

10. Next Meeting: July 10, 4:00 p.m., Conference Rm. A, City Hall

11. Adjournment at 5:00 p.m.: Motion by Phillips. Seconded by Thurn. Motion carried 10-0.

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