

# Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

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**DATE:** Wednesday, March 26, 2014

**TIME:** 4:00 PM

**PLACE:** City Hall – Conference Room B, 50 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Dubuque

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## Minutes

**Present:** Sheila Castaneda, Robert Felderman, Jeff Jochum, Dick Landis, Phyllis Lee, Kevin Lynch (left at 4:40 p.m.), Patrick McNamara (left at 5:06 p.m.), Betty Phillips, Nancy Rhomberg, Louise Thurn

**Excused:** Joyce Connors, Annalee Ward

**Guest:** Applicant for membership, Richard Van Iten

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 20, 2014 meeting: Motion by Phillips. Second by Thurn. Motion carried 10-0.
2. The Oath of Office was administered to Commissioner Robert Felderman.
3. Dornbirn, Austria
  - a. Planning Delegation visit to Dubuque - May 16-19, 2014: Phillips shared her ideas to incorporate into the itinerary and the commission discussed further ideas. An itinerary was drafted to be finalized at the next meeting. (draft copy attached).
4. Handan, China: Update
  - a. Photo Exhibit and Humanities Iowa Grant: Landis is continuing to work on a the grant that may be expanded to include a NE Iowa traveling exhibit possibly through the library system, printed brochures and information cards, expert presentations, cost considerations for transporting the exhibit, picture book for each location, discussion of matching and in-kind funding.
5. Pyatigorsk, Russia: Update
  - a. Open World Grant and Young Professionals Delegation, June 2014: Landis and Jochum are approaching the Chamber of Commerce and the Dubuque Jaycees about applying for the grant and sponsoring the delegation, which includes 6 members under age 30 and 1 translator for 2 weeks. Landis will respond to contact Deb Lutgen with results.
6. Cameroon, West Africa: Update: Landis is working on scheduling a meeting with Innocent Chia.
7. University of Dubuque: Choir Trip to Trois Rivieres: Landis reported that new contact information was provide to UD and the choir will stop in Trois Rivieres with additional tours. It is hoped that Trois Rivieres will reciprocate with a visit to Dubuque.
8. Library Archive and Display – Update: Firnstahl will coordinate dates with the Library so the material for Dornbirn, Austria, will be installed for the delegation’s visit.
9. Items from Commission: Thurn reported on beginning a pen pal program with Washington Junior High School and that 43 items with notes and letters have been sent to Handan, China.

10. Items from Staff: Firnstahl stated the Mr. Van Iten's application for membership would go before Council for appointment on April 7. Election of officers should be considered for a future agenda as well as a goal setting/strategic planning session.
11. Next Meeting: April 16 at 4 p.m. Firnstahl will confirm a room.
12. Adjournment at 5:10 p.m. Motion by Lee. Second by Thurn. Motion carried 8-0.

Prepared and submitted by Kevin S. Firnstahl, City Clerk