

Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

DATE: Wednesday, May 28, 2014

TIME: 4:00 PM

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

Minutes

Present: Sheila Castaneda, Joyce Connors, Jeffrey Jochum (4:05), Dick Landis, Phyllis Lee, Pat McNamara, Betty Phillips, Dick Van Iten, Louise Thurn (4:05) Annalee Ward

Excused: Bob Felderman, Kevin Lynch, Nancy Rhomberg

1. Approval of Minutes from the April 16, 2014 meeting: Motion by Phillips. Second by Ward. Motion carried 8-0.
2. Dornbirn, Austria, Review of delegation visit, May 17-18, 2014 and follow up: Discussion was given to providing thank-you notes to the persons who facilitate guided tours of St. Mary's Church, the Caradco Building, Mt. Calvary Cemetery, and to Mayors Kaufmann and Rummele. The commission discussed the conversations they had with the delegation around arts and culture events, educational institutions, and city programs. Commissioners were encouraged to follow up with information to the delegates. Discussion was given to publicity around the vintage print of Dubuque provided to Mayor Buol by Mayor Kaufmann through the newspaper or via the City's Facebook account and web page. Ideas offered for a future delegation visit included the Field of Dreams movie site, campus tours, and the Civil War series at the Library.
3. Handan, China: Photo Exhibit and Humanities Iowa Grant: Landis and Firnstahl reported that the grant has been submitted.
4. Pyatigorsk, Russia: Open World Grant and Young Professionals Delegation: Landis and Jochum reported on the delegation visit facilitated by Damian Waid and the Chamber of Commerce June 6-19. Three of the delegates are from the Stavropol region of Russia where the Sister City of Pyatigorsk is located. Commissioner Jochum is arranging a reception on the evening of June 9. Commissioners should RSVP to Damian Waid at the Chamber of Commerce if interested in attending. Jochum will forward an itinerary of the visit by e-mail as soon as it is finalized. It was suggested that the delegation be shown Pyatigorsk Park.
5. Iowa Sister States Annual Meeting June 1, 2014. Landis reported that he will attend the meeting to be held in Fort Dodge from 1-3 p.m., and invited up to three commissioners to join.
6. Goal Setting Session: Council Member Joyce Connors reported that she and Council Member Kevin Lynch would like the Commission to schedule a goal setting session to assess and update the Commission's mission, purpose, and establish future goals. They suggest one or two sessions facilitated by internal personnel. Firnstahl will explore potential dates with the selected facilitator and forward to the Commission. It was suggested to include Sister City Committee history and budget in the session.
7. Pen Pal Student Exchanges: Commissioner Louise Thurn reported on the continuation of the artifact exchanges with students in Handan, China, and Dornbirn, Austria. She has had correspondence regarding Handan's exuberance for student and teacher exchanges and the difficulties involved in facilitating that. The exchange with Dornbirn, Austria, will continue another year with a different teacher. Landis suggested going through a college board or accredited organization.

8. Library Archive and Display: Landis reported that the Dornbirn, Austria, display will remain at the Library through June. Firnstahl reported that two copies of Miron Pichler's book, *Portrait: From Dornbirn to the New World*, are now available for check out through the Library.
9. Schedule Election of Officers: Pending goal setting date(s).
10. Items from Commission: Commissioner Van Iten reported on a delegation of 36 German agricultural students who will visit Iowa July 1 to learn about small farm technology vs. consolidation stating that this type of topic is relevant to the Commission's interests.
11. Items from Staff: Firnstahl distributed a report from Ann Gieger of Sister Cities International regarding her visits to local programs throughout the state.
12. Next Meeting: Pending goal setting date(s)
13. Adjournment: Motion by Castenade to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. Seconded by Thurn. Motion carried 9-0 with Ward having left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Kevin S. Firnstahl, City Clerk