

Sister City Relationships Advisory Commission

DATE: Wednesday, September 14, 2016
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: City Hall – Conference Room B, 50 W. 13th St., Dubuque

Present: Sheila Casteneda, Joyce Connors, Robert Felderman, Jeff Jochum, Dick Landis, Kevin Lynch, Rachel McDermott, Patrick McNamara, Louise Thurn, Dik Van Iten, Annalee Ward

Excused: Phyllis Lee

MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from July 20, 2016: Motion by Felderman to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Van Iten. Motion carried 11-0.
2. Financial Report – Firnstahl reported a starting balance of \$5,680. Anticipating annual dues of \$765 for Sister Cities International in May 2017 leaving a working balance of \$4,915. Firnstahl stated that funds will be needed for the additional mounting/framing of the tutorial/translation under design for the Chinese artwork hanging in City Hall.
3. Sister City Commission Restructuring: Firnstahl reported on communication with the City Manager regarding the Commission's decision to seek approval from the City Council to restructure as a non-profit. Firnstahl will draft a slide presentation for the Commission's review to be presented to Council at either the October 17 or November 7 Council meeting. Chairperson Jochum, Commissioner Landis and City Clerk Firnstahl will present with all available commissioners in attendance.

ACTION: Firnstahl, Commission

4. Iowa Sister States – Strpse, Kosovo: Felderman reported on the newsletter received from the Iowa Sister States welcoming Kosovo Consul General Gashi to Des Moines. Felderman will relayed Dubuque's interest in a visit/introduction.
5. Dornbirn, Austria: Firnstahl will follow up with Dornbirn Public Information Officer Ralf Hammerle.

ACTION: Firnstahl

6. Handan, China: Landis reported on the Hebei [Flooding] Relief fund also noted in the Iowa Sister States newsletter and will correspond with our contacts in Handan. Thurn reported on efforts to display the Handan photos at Mercy Hospital. The Hospital advised that it could not display the photos due to hygienic concerns. Thurn also suggested that the commission attempt to collect the boxes used for flat-screen televisions for an inexpensive way of storing the photos. Connors recommending contacting the airport about a Sister City display in the new terminal that could include the Handan photos or Sister City flags or recognition signage. This was again discussed as part of the Library display item. Van Iten reported on coordinating a display of the Handan photos at Bethany Home. Exact location and dates to be determined. He will continue to explore other facilities. Thurn will provide a copy of the photo display text that was used for the exhibit at the Roshek Building for use at Bethany Home.

ACTION: Thurn, Van Item

7. Pyatigorsk, Russia: Landis, McDermott and Jochum reported on their luncheon with Sasha (Alexander) Mitrofonenko and his girlfriend Andrea Becker who are working on a joint Dubuque/Pyatigorsk photobook. Sasha and Andrea are willing to be a point of contact for

Pyatigorsk to explore university contacts and the sister city park artwork display proposed by Pyatigorsk.

8. Pen Pal Student Exchanges – Thurn reported that a Dornbirn teacher is interested in the exchange. There was a minor exchange between Bryant School and Dornbirn in April of this year and students were given approval to exchange e-mails. Thurn will continue to pursue an exchange with Handan.

ACTION: Thurn

9. Library Display Status: Firstahl reported that the display can come down at any time. Landis will refresh the display that is currently an overall educational topic. Jochum offered some of his books and artifacts for the display. It was suggested that the commission retrieve the older artifacts that are cataloged at the library and use them in a display. Firstahl will follow up with the Library. Discussion was given to purchase of a display case for use possibly at the airport terminal to further with the international connectivity theme. Thurn will inquire with Airport Manager Bob Grierson.

ACTION: Jochum, Landis, Firstahl

10. Items from Commission: Felderman reported on communication from Kim Heideman of Iowa Sister States about three groups visiting Iowa from Kosovo and confirming Dubuque interest in a visit
11. Items from Staff: Firstahl reminded the commission that a member vacancy still exists on the commission and encouraged recruitment. Correspondence from Youth for Understanding requesting hosting of foreign exchange students was shared. Felderman stated that he's offering some mentoring related to the program.
12. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 16, 2016, [Conference Room I, City Hall ANNEX, 1300 Main Street.] Commissioner Ward is unable to attend. Council Member Connors may be late.
13. Adjournment: Motion by Van Iten and seconded by McDermott to adjourn at 4:50 p.m. Motion carried 11-0.

Submitted by Kevin S. Firstahl, City Clerk