

**NAPERVILLE SISTER CITIES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES, July 1, 2009  
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rich Mikolajczyk called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Bill Bien, Jim Davidson, Larry Konecny Jr., Barb Kucera, Rich Mikolajczyk, Roberto Ramirez, Randy Russell, Sami Siddiqi, Roger Stamm

Absent: Dave Harr, Joe Hudetz, Jane Klassen, Dave Perillo, Bettye Wehrli, Laura Weren

Student Representatives: Catherine Chen, Rhae Cisneros, Alex Mayszak, Akansha Tarun – all were absent

Visitors: Sophia Lai and Melissa Lai

City Liaison: Ms. Cheryl Johnson

**Secretary Randy Russell declared a quorum was present**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Barb Kucera moved to accept the June 2009 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Roger Stamm and approved unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jim Davidson reported that the approved budget for FY2010 is \$5,750.

Approval for expenditure for \$880 for annual dues in the International Sister Cities Organization is needed. Motion to approve was made by Barb Kucera, seconded by Roberto Ramirez and approved unanimously.

Approval for expenditure for \$35 for annual dues in the Illinois Sister Cities Organization is needed. Motion to approve was made by Barb Kucera, seconded by Roberto Ramirez and approved unanimously.

Barb Kucera moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Bill Bien and approved unanimously.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Rich introduced Ms. Sophia Lai and her mother Ms. Melissa Lai. Sophia is a student at Naperville North High School and is interested in being a student representative on the Sister Cities Commission. They have lived 6 years in Seven Bridges and her father is a physicist at Argonne National Laboratory since 1990.

## **REPORTS**

Randy reported that a number of meetings had taken place with the Naperville City Council members on the plans for a second sister city. A team of people have also met with the City Manager. Meetings with two councilmen remain. The team also plans to meet with the CEO of the Naperville Chamber. All of these meetings should be completed by the end of July.

Randy apologized to the group for the late start of this meeting. He and two of the other commissioners were meeting with two members of the City Council and the meeting went longer than expected.

The trip to Patzcuaro is scheduled for the weekend of 30 July-3 August. This trip was subsequently postponed until October.

One result of the meetings with Council members was the overall theme that the relationship with Nitra may have run its course. Perhaps we should be considering sunsetting this relationship and beginning anew with Patzcuaro and maybe another city. However we proceed, an exit strategy needs to be in place that allows us to gracefully sunset the relationship in 10-12 years.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Jim reported on progress on the plans for the student exchange program

- Linda Yates is the primary Rotary contact in Naperville
- Ruth Baneszova is scheduled to arrive at O'Hare airport on 13 August at 3:35 PM. The Hudetz family will meet her and take her to their home
- Ms. Baneszova will be invited to the September meeting for introductions and discussion

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Rich and Larry reported that a \$10,000 SECA grant was approved by City Council for the Nitra Delegation visit. Larry wrote the grant and the Commission thanked him for his efforts. The grant will be paid to the Sister Cities Foundation. The Foundation will administer the spending of the grant.

Subsequent to the meeting we learned that the delegation will be in Naperville/Chicago from Monday, 14 September to Monday, 21 September. Sammi has taken responsibility

for coordinating the event. He will be seeking assistance from Commissioners and other individuals and organizations on planning and executing the various activities associated with the visit.

We need a coordinated media campaign for this visit to promote the various activities. This includes the Chamber of Commerce, NCTV, and relevant press releases. Sammi and the communications team will cooperate on this effort.

Given the comments from the Council members during the second sister city discussions it will be important to ensure they experience the full range of events associated with the Nitra delegation visit.

Barb reminded the Commission that the materials used at the Nitra Night celebration are in her garage. Some of this material may be needed for the September visit.

More details concerning the visit will be available at the August meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Randy Russell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roger Stamm and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room, Naperville Municipal Center.