

**NAPERVILLE SISTER CITIES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES, November 4, 2009  
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rich Mikolajczyk called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Bill Bien, Bev Eigenberg, Dave Harr, Joe Hudetz, Jane Klassen, Bettye Wehrli

Student Representatives: Melissa Lai, NNHS

City Liaison: Ms. Cheryl Johnson

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**OPEN FORUM**

Melissa Lai was introduced as the student representative for the commission for 2009/2010 school year. Melissa is a cheerleader and participates on the track team. She is interested in international affairs and is excited about working with the commission.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to a presentation on an Indian sister city candidate and the report on the commissioner's visit to Patzcuaro, Mexico.

Mr. Dinesh Jain delivered a presentation introducing the commission to Nagpur, India. Mr. Jain met with Mayor Pradel on 30 September and as a result of that conversation asked to speak before the commission. Nagpur is a vibrant, growing area with much commerce as well as a wealth of Indian culture. Mr. Jain is a 10 year resident of Naperville and was born and raised in Nagpur. He knows both communities well and believes that there is a much to be gained from formalizing a sister city relationship. There is an organization in place in Nagpur, NagpurFirst, established for the purpose of promoting the city both within India and externally. Mr. Jain is a member of this group

and will be the liaison in Naperville. A wide ranging Q&A period followed the presentation with Mr. Jain addressing questions concerning commerce, education, healthcare, tourism, and local culture among others.

## **REPORTS**

Following Mr. Jain's presentation the commissioners who participated on the exploratory trip to Patzcuaro made their report. The trip was a big success. The commissioners reported very positive findings concerning both the commercial and cultural possibilities of forming a sister city relationship with Patzcuaro. Letters from both Mayors have been exchanged. A letter of understanding from the delegates from Patzcuaro and Naperville has been signed stating the intention to move forward with the relationship. A delegation from Patzcuaro may visit Naperville in the spring of 2010.

These two cities plus the Chinese city, Wujiang, that was introduced in 2008 are all excellent candidates for future sister city relationships. One of the key issues facing the commission and the City Council is funding these relationships. A discussion followed exploring the idea of alternative funding from both corporate and private citizen donations. Mr. Jain suggested that between NagpurFirst and other connections he has that funding would not be an issue. The Wujiang representatives made a similar comment dating back to 2008.

Randy, as lead for the second sister city work team, agreed to call a meeting to further explore funding possibilities as well as next steps with the three groups who want to affiliate with Naperville.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Officer nominations for 2010 are due prior to the next meeting. Randy agreed to continue as secretary and Jim agreed to continue as treasurer. Larry agreed to move from co-chair to chair and Rich will move back to the commission as a commissioner. Co-chair is the remaining position to be filled.

There was no report on the Young Artist/Young Authors Competition.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Barb Kucera moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roberto Ramirez and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

## **NEXT MEETING**

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