

**NAPERVILLE SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, December 28, 2009
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Rich Mikolajczyk called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Bev Eigenberg, Dave Harr, Joe Hudetz, Roberto Ramirez, Bettye Wehrli

Student Representatives: None

City Liaison: None

Guests: Mr. Arnaud Boulestreau and Mrs. Lisa Boulestreau serving as representatives from Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire and Mr. Hank Beckman from the Naperville Sun

Secretary Randy Russell declared a quorum was present

OPEN FORUM

This was a special meeting to consider the possibility of creating a sister city relationship with Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire in France. The regularly scheduled December meeting was postponed and cancelled due to scheduling conflicts and inclement weather. As this was a meeting of convenience for the representatives of the French city, we did not consider November minutes or a treasurer's report. Those topics and others will be discussed at the regularly scheduled January meeting

Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire is the fourth city in the last 12 months to approach the commission with interest in forming a sister city relationship. Lisa is a Naperville native who attended NNHS and lived in Naperville until her marriage to Arnaud. They now live in Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire. They teach French at a private Japanese school in the city. The couple has two children and they were in Naperville visiting Lisa's parents for the holidays. Arnaud has traveled extensively and been to Naperville multiple times over the last few years.

The Boulestreau's provided a thorough overview of their city and described how the two cities are similar. They were well prepared to discuss how both cities would benefit from the sister city relationship. Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire was founded in 1435. The city is located along the Loire River. This river is the longest river in France and is a source of

commerce and pleasure for millions of residents throughout central France. The city is about 175 miles from Paris and is accessible from Paris by the TGV train in about 45 minutes. The city is a suburb of the larger metropolitan area, Tours. Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire is about 19,000 in population while the Tours metro area is more than 175,000.

The major industry is tourism. There are several large companies/governmental organizations located in Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire. The town is family oriented with a myriad of festivals and activities throughout the year. The climate is temperate with cool winters and warm summers. There are four distinct seasons. The city is committed to maintaining parks, recreational areas and forest spaces. They have a strong love of history and make every effort to preserve their historic buildings by finding innovative uses for older structures. The residents have a respect for the past but look to the future. Their theme for historic preservation is preserve, renovate and reuse.

The Mayor of the town has been in office for 20 years. He was elected at the age of 29. He also holds offices in the national government as well. He is well connected in the commercial and government areas. He fully supports the efforts to engage Naperville as a sister city.

The sister city organization in Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire has people who have served for 10, 15 and 20 years. The city is committed to the program and currently has 7 sister cities dating back to the 1970's. They have added a city about every 3-5 years. 6 are European cities, 1 is in Africa and they have none in North or South America. The mayor and the sister cities organization are seeking a formal relationship with a US city. Through the Japanese school Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire has strong ties to Japan but no formal relationship. The sister city organization is funded almost completely through private company and individual donations. Very little city or other government money is used for the program. This has been true since the beginning of the program.

Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire along with their other sister cities has a combined event every two years where youth from all of the cities gather in a host city. Each city takes turns hosting the event. The event is for 14-18 year olds and 20-25 people from each city typically attend. This event has been going on for more than 15 years.

The Sun reporter wrote an article that was published the next day. The website is www.saint-cyr-sur-loire.com.

The commission made no commitment to Mr. & Mrs. Boulestreau other than to carefully consider their proposal along with the others we have recently received from Chinese, Indian and Mexican cities. The couple gave an open offer to connect with the Mayor of Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire through conference call/video-conference if a direct/face to face discussion might be useful.

After Mr. & Mrs. Boulestreau left the meeting the commission briefly discussed plans for hosting a 2-3 person delegation from Patzcuaro. More discussion on this matter and

other issues related to additional sister cities will be the main topics at the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Barb Kucera moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Davidson and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room, Naperville Municipal Center.