

**NAPERVILLE SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES, March 3, 2010
MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Rich Mikolajczyk called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Jim Davidson, Bev Eigenberg , John Fitterer, Joe Hudetz, Jane Klassen

Student Representatives: Melissa Lai

Guest: Mike Dropka, Legislative Aide to Darlene Senger

City Liaison: Cheryl Johnson

Secretary Randy Russell declared a quorum was present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Barb Kucera moved to accept the February 2010 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Bettye Wehrli and approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

There were no expenditures in February. Rich reported that the Sister Cities Commission budget for 2010/2011 is \$5,250. Barb Kucera moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Roberto Ramirez and approved unanimously.

SLOVAKIAN FLAG PRESENTATION

Mike Dropka, Legislative Aide to Darlene Senger announced that there would be a Slovakian Flag presentation at Illinois State Representative Senger's office on Monday, 29 March at 4 PM. Ms. Senger's predecessor, Mary Lou Cowlshaw, will present the flag to Representative Senger who will in turn present it to Mayor Pradel. All Commissioners are invited to attend.

CO-CHAIR NOMINATION

Due to time constraints, Larry has asked to be replaced as co-chair for the commission for 2010/2011. Roberto Ramirez has agreed to become co-chair along with Sami Siddiqi. Bill Bien moved that Roberto be declared co-chair. The motion was seconded by Roger Stamm and approved unanimously.

FY2010 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Rich presented the updated list of goals and objectives as well as work team assignments. All agreed on the revised goals and objectives and assignments.

OPEN FORUM

Barb reported on the North Central College International Festival. All went well. Attendance was good and we had many visitors to our booth. We thanked Gamma and Roman for their participation with a gift certificate. They said they would be back next year. Subsequent to the meeting, Naperville Magazine published a full color spread on the festival. One of the featured photos was of Gamma and Roman.

Randy reported that he and Roberto will be the Naperville representatives at the State Convention in Carbondale, 9-10 April 2010.

Sami Siddiq gave an update on the program called "Building a Citizen Diplomacy Network in Michigan". There is a seminar at Grand Rapids Community College on 22 May from 8 AM – 4 PM. Interested parties from Illinois, Indiana, and other states have been invited to attend and learn what Michigan has done and plans to do in the coming years. Sami will discuss this opportunity again in April.

ADDITIONAL SISTER CITIES

Randy reported that the working team and the Foundation Board completed the evaluation of the candidate cities. The working group recommends that the Commission move forward with Patzcuaro, Mexico as the next sister city. Roger Stamm moved that the recommendation be accepted. Bettye Wehrli seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Rich & Bill led discussion of the summary statements concerning each city. The commissioners had these documents prior to the meeting. The commissioners believe this analysis was thorough, fair and resulted in an excellent choice for the next sister city.

The working team agreed to prepare letters to the other three cities thanking them for their interest and informing them of our decision to proceed with Patzcuaro first. The letter also tells each of the cities that we are interested in developing relationships with them as well. We are only comfortable taking on one new city in a given year. We will

consider the other three candidate cities in future years. These letters will be sent on Mayor Pradel's letterhead and will be signed by him.

A second letter from Mayor Pradel will be sent to the representatives in Patzcuaro announcing our plans to establish the sister cities relationship with them.

All letters were sent in March.

The Foundation Board will prepare a Powerpoint deck and draft letters to support the fundraising efforts. The first visit will be with the Mexican Consulate and the Tourism Bureau in Chicago. Roberto will schedule these meetings. Bill Bien described the fundraising approach and strategy the Foundation will follow in meeting with prospective donors. The Commission agreed with the approach and strategy.

A key next step is to plan and conduct follow up meetings with the City Council members. These meetings are tentatively planned for April/May. The goal is to get Patzcuaro approved as a second sister city by the Council in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Bettye Wehrli moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Roberto Ramirez and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Mayor's Conference Room, Naperville Municipal Center.