

**Sister Cities Commission
Quarterly Report
March 5, 2010**

Cultural

- *Mirror Image*, the commission continues to search for a permanent home for the Mirror Image Display. Several potential sites have been investigated. For now, the display is housed in City Hall outside the Mayor's office. The Display is constructed for both indoor and outdoor use. It is imperative that a permanent home is found in 2010.
- Hosted the Zobor Folk Ensemble in May. This is a group of more than 20 college age musicians from one of the universities in Nitra. The group is dedicated to the preservation of Slovakian folk music. Played a concert at City Hall including singing, dancing and instrumental tunes. The commission conducted a Naperville tour for the group and hosted a dinner at Dolce Amore.
- During 2009 the commission heard presentations from two additional candidate Sister Cities; Nagpur, India and Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire, France. These presentations are in addition to the other candidate cities from 2008, Patzcuaro, Mexico and Wujiang, China. Each of these cities is represented by a longtime Naperville resident.
- Conducted meetings with City Council, the City Manager and the Chamber of Commerce concerning the plans for additional sister cities. Based on the feedback from those meetings additional work was undertaken by the committee responsible for this effort. A second round of meetings will be conducted and recommendations will be presented to the council in 2010.
- Four commissioners made a trip to Patzcuaro, Mexico in October. They were hosted by the organization that is promoting the Patzcuaro-Naperville sister city relationship. The commissioners were very impressed with the city and believe this relationship would be beneficial to both cities.
- Completed the 2009 Young Artists competition in March. Over 40 entries were judged and 5 winners were named. The commission decided not to participate in the 2010 competition. The commission will reconsider participation in 2011.
- Hosted a delegation of nine people from Nitra, Slovakia in September. Planned and executed a wide ranging agenda with local businesses, religious organizations and government departments. The delegation was thrilled with the visit and additional communication has taken place between Nitra and Naperville representatives since the delegation's return to Nitra.

Educational

- Participated in the North Central College International Festival on February 14, 2010. The commission staffed a booth from noon to 4 PM to introduce the attendees to Nitra, Slovakia. Gama and Roman Hudec brought a variety of Slovakian materials and assisted staff with the booth. Gama and Roman are local residents from Slovakia who are interested in bringing knowledge of Slovak culture to the community. The purpose of the commission's participation is to highlight the Nitra – Naperville Sister City relationship.

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- Three commissioners attended the Illinois State Sister Cities Conference in Schaumburg, in April. They learned how other Illinois cities build sister city relationships. They also learned much about the Sister Cities International parent organization.
- Sponsored, in cooperation with Rotary International, the first exchange student from Slovakia. Ruth Baneszova arrived in Naperville in August and will spend the school year with host families living in Naperville. She attends Neuqua Valley High School.

New Commissioners

- Five new commissioners were approved and added to the team in 2009. They are: Joseph Hudetz, Sami Saddiqi, David Harr, Bev Eigenbrg, and John Fitterer.
- Recently, Dave Harr resigned from the board and his position needs to be filled.
- Officers for 2010 are: Rich Mikolajczyk, Co-Chairman; Roberto Ramirez, Co-Chairman; Randy Russell, Secretary; and Jim Davidson, Treasurer.

Prepared by Randy Russell, Secretary, Sister Cities Commission