

**Sister Cities Commission
Quarterly Report
March 31, 2010**

Cultural

- Participated in the North Central College International Festival, 14 February 2010. The commission staffs a booth from noon to 4 PM to introduce the attendees to Nitra, Slovakia. Gama and Roman Hudec bring a variety of Slovakian materials and staff the booth with the commissioners. Gama and Roman are local residents from Slovakia who are interested in bringing knowledge of Slovak culture to the community. The purpose of our participation is to highlight the Nitra – Naperville Sister City relationship. We had over 100 visitors to our booth and distributed flyers and other items regarding Nitra and the Sister City relationship.
- Former State Representative Mary Lou Colishaw presented a Slovakian flag to current State Representative Darlene Senger and Mayor Pradel on 29 March. This flag was given to Ms. Colishaw early in the sister cities relationship with Nitra. She wanted to be sure it was in the safe hands of the City of Naperville.
- After thorough analysis the Commission voted unanimously to begin formal efforts to establish a second sister city relationship with Patzcuaro, Mexico. Three other cities were considered; one in India, one in China and one in France. A variety of factors led to the decision to choose Patzcuaro over the other three candidate cities.
- Funding to support the additional sister city relationship will come from fund raising undertaken by the Naperville Sister Cities Foundation. Initial meetings have been held with several potential donors. The Foundation has commitments for at least \$8,000.
- Letters from Mayor Pradel were sent to the representatives from each of the candidate cities informing them of the Commission's decision. The Commission did not close the door on any of the cities. We simply said that Patzcuaro was our choice for the next sister city. In years to come we hope to establish additional sister city relationships and these three cities will be at the top of the list for consideration.
- The additional sister cities work team will schedule meeting with the Council members to brief them on the plans for Patzcuaro. These meetings will be follow ups to the meetings held in June/July 2009 with the Council to discuss the initial plans for additional sister cities.

Educational

- Ruth Baneszova moved to her new home for the second semester. Ruth is our exchange student from Nitra attending Neuqua Valley High School for the 2009/2010 school year. She is doing well in school and has made many friends.
- Two commissioners will attend the Illinois State Sister Cities Conference in Carbondale in April. More information will be provided in the report for the second quarter.

Operating Activities & New Commissioners

- No new commissioners were added in the first quarter of 2010.
- Goals and Objectives for 2010 were approved. In addition, project team leads and team members have been named and agreed by the Commission.
- Officers for 2010 are: Sami Siddiqi - Chair, Roberto Ramirez – Co-Chair, Randy Russell – Secretary, and Jim Davidson – Treasurer.

Prepared by Randy Russell, Secretary, Sister Cities Commission