

Naperville Sister Cities Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2016
Mayor's Conference Room

Call to Order: Laurie Donahue, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Roll Call of Commissioners:

Present: Nat Goodman, Laurie Donahue, Karen Swasey, David Boor, Tina Cui, Patty Lindstrom, Rena Tamayo-Calabrese, Marianna Hudakova, Chris Monovich, Janani Kalyan

Absent: Jack Niekamp, Pat Merryweather, Federico Manzur-Yunes

Guests: N/A

Approval of Minutes:

--- motioned to approve the minutes. Laurie Donahue
--- seconded the approval of the minutes. Karen Swasey
Minutes for June were approved.

Public Forum:

Chris Monovich, former Co-Chair, publically thanked Laurie Donahue, Co-Chair, for carrying the leadership burden on her own during his absence. He also thanked Patty Lindstrom for stepping up to replace him as Co-Chair and to eventually provide help for Laurie.

Treasurer's Report:

Current accounting spreadsheet provided by David Boor/Laurie Donahue. Key points: all anticipated 2015/16 expenses are documented. These funds expire April 30, 2017.

SECA Update:

Laurie Donahue shared that she and Pat Merryweather attended the city's SECA open forum. Prioritization for SECA funding will be given to cultural events, new events, and events that have a solid plan to be self-funding in the short term. It was also announced that the funding period will transition to the calendar year beginning January 1, 2018. This will necessitate an eight-month grant for the time period of May 1, 2017-December 31, 2017. A proposal for the grant will be due around the end of October 2016.

Riverwalk Art Festival:

Karen Swasey reviewed scheduling of the Sister Cities Commission booth during the Festival. Karen created a plan for pick-up of booth materials for set-up and take down. She also shared that art from Slovak artists, Luka Brase and Patricia Melekus, will be featured, as well as, finalists from the Young Artist Competition. Patty Lindstrom will reach out to La Llorona Art Gallery to attempt to obtain a piece for display from Mexican artist, Alfredo Zalce Torres. The Sister Cities International traveling show of student winners will also be on display.

Strategy and Branding Update:

Patty Lindstrom unveiled the beautiful new Sister Cities Commission logo with examples of the new banner, business cards, and brochure. Patty reviewed the new Strategic Plan for the Commission. Comments were taken.

Removal of Subteams (Nitra, Patzcuaro, Exploration, Brand Strategy):

Laurie Donahue motioned that the subteams be eliminated. This was seconded by Chris Monovich and approved by all Commissioners present.

Nitra Trip:

Laurie shared that Jack Niekamp, who is in charge of the trip planning, has received enough positive response that the Commission will proceed with further planning. David Boor recommended that Jack tap into the trip planner from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church who has worked with Nitra for years.

New Sister City Exploration:

Not a current focus area in the newly launched 2016-7 Strategic Plan.

Sister Cities Foundation Update:

Randy Russell will continue to seek a meeting date that will allow Foundation members to get together. Deborah Peacock, ex-pat in Patzcuaro, proposal to be reviewed at next Foundation meeting.

Meeting Adjournment:

Laurie Donahue motioned to adjourn. Rena Tamayo-Calabrese seconded.