



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Final

Sister City Planning Committee

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

4:30 PM

City Hall Conference Room 207A

Call To Order

Rev. Guetzlaff called the November meeting to order at 4:30 p. m.

Attendance

Also present were: Heather Godley, Keough Lemieux, Ashley Sanchez, and Marybeth Zuhlke

PRESENT: 11 - Caskey, Peterson, Skow, Martinez, O'Connell, Guetzlaff, Kuruvilla, Kennedy, Bolter, Taft and Mckinney

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the October meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote

Treasurer's Report

Account balances read as follows:

Account number 11202-53480 - \$2,974.42

Account number 20624-34500-10001 - \$2,795.98

Rev. Guetzlaff informed the Council that our funding for 2020 has been approved and will remain at the same level as in previous years.

Alice Peterson proposed that we consider using some of the money remaining in this year's account to purchase ceremonial gifts. Abey Kuruvilla provided additional information on gifts that the University of Wisconsin-Parkside art department has designed and fabricated.

Chairman's Report

Holiday Folk Fair – Rev. Guetzlaff was contacted by the Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair and he passed along information about the times and events of this year's celebration. It was unclear whether the Folk Fair sent us this information as an invitation to attend or perhaps to participate on some level in the future. Rev. Guetzlaff emailed for clarification, but his questions went unanswered.

Old Business

Civic leadership visit to Aalborg – Our Danish sister city is hosting a civic leadership

conference in May 2020, which will focus on smart city initiatives for the 21st century. Mayor Mason is interested in attending, but he is still waiting for an official invitation from Aalborg.

Student visit from Montélimar – Franc Martinez has been working closely with Frédéric Clauzel, his counterpart in Montélimar, as well as with local RUSD teachers as they plan for a student visit to Racine in the spring 2020. Approximately 13-14 students from Alain Borne School in Montélimar will spend a week in Racine as a part of a homestay and school visitation experience. As in the past, Council members will help with recruiting host families, planning an itinerary and providing transportation for our French guests. Two handouts, a promotional flier to secure host families and a list of host families already contacted, were distributed.

New Business

Earthquake in Montélimar – We were notified by various sources that Montélimar and surrounding areas suffered damage to some of the older buildings resulting from an earthquake on November 11. We heard from Monsieur Wolf Lynen of Montélimar, who thanked Mayor Mason for his words of concern, and informed us that our French sister city was not severely affected.

Invitations to Sister City partners – Informal discussions between and among our sister city partners have broached the subject of extending an invitation to visit Racine in 2020. Council members spent a few moments discussing the best time to visit and whom to invite. We want to include Mayor Mason in our discussions as much as possible.

Shared Google Folder – Heather Godley offered to set up a shared Google folder to serve as a repository for information that all Council members can access.

Adjournment

The November meeting adjourned at 5:27 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 4:30 p. m.