



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sister City Planning Committee

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

4:30 PM

City Hall Room 207

Call To Order

PRESENT: 9 - Keiko Skow, Alice Peterson, Al Guetzlaff, Linda Duczman O'Connell, Dwayne Olsen, Michele Caskey, Tom Kennedy, Francisco Martinez and Dawn Imberi

ABSENT: 2 - Lisa Koenen and Maricela Tellez

EXCUSED: 1 - Heather Godley

Approval of Minutes for the September 14, 2016 Meeting.

A motion was made that this file be to Approve the Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Acc't #11202-53480 - \$4,464.25

Acc't #20624-11100 - \$1,532.73

Old Business

Gift inventory report – Linda O'Connell and Alice Peterson prepared a report that catalogued gifts from our sister city partners. Some ceremonial presents have been stored at the library due to lack of space at City Hall, including a ceremonial headdress and a wood carving from Zapotlanejo, a proclamation from Montélimar and a numbered print by Esben H. Kristensen from Aalborg. Rev. Guetzlaff will talk to Tom Friedel about finding a way to display some of these items. Council members discussed the idea of sending some of the gifts to Racine schools on a rotating basis or contacting Wustum Museum to see if they have any interest in putting items on display.

New Business

These items will be covered in the Chairman's Report and in the Committee Reports

Chairman's Report

Aalborg inquiry regarding Youth School - Rev. Guetzlaff shared a letter from Aalborg inviting Racine and Aalborg's other sister cities to join a school to school initiative. The letter proposes establishing international partnerships with schools or organizations on behalf of young people ages 13 – 19. The goal is to foster international communication on topics of interest to youth. The invitation might sync with school programs such as After Zone, but the partners must be willing to travel to

Aalborg once per year.

Aalborg invitation to DGI Festival - Another invitation from Aalborg announced the DGI Festival in the summer of 2017. DGI invites as many as 25,000 participants from Aalborg's sister cities to compete in twenty-five sports events. Racine has sent participants in past events such as sailing and martial arts, and our council will publicize this invitation with a newspaper article.

Update on Sister School project/visit - Rev. Guetzlaff contacted our French partners to schedule a Skype call. The purpose of the conversation is to further plans for our Sister School Project. Montélimar has not yet responded to our proposal. Rev. Al called our attention to publications by Sister Cities International, one that suggests productive topics for our conversation, the other a template for a proclamation that we can use in a ceremonial setting. Franc Martinez reported on the status of his plans to accompany a student group to Montélimar in the spring of 2017. Four students are committed and paid up, and the council discussed whether it is advisable to continue planning with so few students. If Franc is willing, we were in favor of moving ahead with the travel plans.

Committee Reports

Publicity & Information Committee - no report

Oiso Committee - Keiko Skow suggested that we begin the search for Racine students who are interested in participating in a home stay with a Japanese family in the summer of 2017. Two years ago we started the recruitment with an announcement in the Racine Journal-Times.

Montélimar Committee - See items in the Chairman's Report

Aalborg Committee - See items in the Chairman's Report

Zapotlanejo Committee - no report

Youth Exchange Project - no report

Adjournment

The October meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 4:30 p. m.