



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Sister City Planning Committee

Linda Duczman O'Connell
Dwayne Olsen
Tom Kennedy
Al Guetzlaff
Dawn Imberi
Francisco Martinez

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

4:30 PM

Call To Order

Present: Rev. Al Guetzlaff, Heather Godley, Dawn Imberi, Tom Kennedy, Franc Martinez, Dwayne Olsen, Alice Peterson, Keiko Skow;

Excused: Michele Caskey, Linda O'Connell

Approval of Minutes for the January 11, 2017 Meeting.

The minutes of the January meeting will be resubmitted to reflect a change of date, which was erroneously listed as January 12. The actual date of last month's meeting was January 11.

Treasurer's Report

Account number 11202-53480 - \$10,000
Account number 202624-11100 - \$1532.73

Old Business

City Council representation - Tom Kennedy had a brief conversation with Alderperson Melissa Lemke about a vacancy on the Sister City Council. Melissa was unaware that the Sister City Council has been working without representation from the City Council for a number of years. She expressed mild interest in fulfilling that role.

New Business

These items will appear in the Chairman's Report and the Committee Reports.

Chairman's Report

Sister School project - Rev. Guetzlaff shared a letter from Wolf Lynen of the Montélimar sister city organization. Monsieur Lynen reports that the Montélimar sister city council continues to work on the sister schools project as we look ahead to the 60th anniversary of our partnership. Wolf's recent illness has slowed regular work on the project.

Chabrillan/Prairie student exchange - Members of the Montélimar subcommittee have met twice with French teacher Tracy Waters as Prairie plans to host a group of students from Lycée Chabrillan in May. As in previous years, the Sister City Council will offer to help with planning an itinerary and transportation.

Request from CCI Greenheart - At a previous meeting, Kerry Jude, local coordinator for CCI Greenheart, made a presentation to introduce her organization and ask about our efforts in recruiting host families for foreign guests. She wrote Rev. Guetzlaff to ask if we had names of potential host families to share.

Committee Reports

Oiso - February has been a busy month for the Oiso subcommittee as they seek Racine high school students interested in a summer homestay program in Oiso. Our Japanese partners have extended an invitation to three candidates in July. Two recruiting sessions at the library produced a list of twelve interested students, so our discussions focused on the how to select the best students among the applicants. Dwayne Olsen passed out lists of the candidates as well as the application form that was used two years ago. To help the selection process, council members suggested adding a teacher/counselor recommendation and/or a short essay to the application process. Tom Kennedy made the motion that the selection be based on the interests and merits of individual candidates, and that the Oiso subcommittee be authorized to proceed as they see fit. The motion was seconded by Heather Godley and passed by voice vote. Two alternates will be chosen to fill in if necessary. The application will be sent out immediately and the subcommittee will make its decisions later in February.

Youth Exchange Project - Franc Martinez updated the council on his plans to travel to France with four Racine high school students during spring break. Language and Friendship, the sponsoring organization, has established an itinerary and confirmed flights and hotel reservations for their ten-day stay in France, including five days in Montélimar. Before departure, Franc has scheduled several meetings with the travelling students and their families to discuss the practical aspects of foreign travel, also to give the participants a chance to get to know one another.

Publicity and Information - No report

Aalborg - No report

Zapotlanejo - No report

Adjournment

The February meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8, 2017.