



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
Michele Caskey
Alice Peterson
Keiko Skow

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 303

Call To Order

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

Secretary Report

Moved to accept April 2017 minutes as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Account number 11202-53480 - \$10,000
Account number 20624-34500-10001 - \$1532.59

Old Business

Hygge Fest – February 10 – 12, 2018

Real Racine plans to feature the Danish heritage of Racine County in a two-day celebration next February. Michele Caskey has been in touch with Real Racine's Dave Blank to see if Sister Cities can play a role in planning or execution of the project.

New Business

Chairman's report

Sister Schools – Franc Martinez returned from Montélimar and reported on conversations he had there with Alain Silve, leader of the Montélimar Sister City Council and with Frédéric Clauzel, English teacher at Alain Borne School. Both expressed a strong desire to keep our school partnerships active. Monsieur Silve will be in Racine for an unofficial visit next June, at which time we hope to schedule a brief meeting at City Hall with a city administrator or with the mayor.

Mileage reimbursement – Rev. Guetzlaff circulated mileage reimbursement forms for all council members who will serve as chauffeurs during the upcoming visit of our

guests from Montélimar. Dwayne Olsen moved that we accept the city's rate of .535 per mile; the motion was seconded by Michele Caskey and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chabrilan/Prairie School exchange – Tracy Waters, retired French teacher from The Prairie School, joined us to give an overview of the activities planned for guests from Chabrilan School in Montélimar. Eighteen students and four chaperones will be hosted by Prairie families from May 15 to May 22, and Madame Waters presented the itinerary which Sister Cities helped prepare.

Committee Reports

Publicity and Information – No report

Oiso – Three Racine high school students have been chosen to participate in a two-week homestay program in Oiso this summer. In preparation for their time in Japan, Dwayne Olsen reported on a meeting in April to help prepare them for the event. The participants and their parents had a question-and-answer session, and there will be further meetings hosted by the Oiso committee to discuss cultural differences and sensitivity. Students will be expected to make presentations on their visit after they return.

Montélimar – Franc Martinez offered more insights into his spring trip to France with four Racine high school students. For most of their time overseas, the group stayed with families in Montélimar, followed by several days in Paris. Franc was complimentary of the sponsoring organization, Language and Friendship, for its attention to the safety of the travelers. Franc confirmed that the experience was a worthwhile venture for students both pedagogically and personally. His interaction with Alain Silve and with Frédéric Clauzel also helped strengthen the school partnerships that have already been established.

Aalborg – No report

Zapotlanejo – No report

Youth Exchange Project – No report

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 4:30 p. m.