



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, August 9, 2017

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 307

Call To Order

PRESENT: 8 - Linda Duczman O'Connell, Tom Kennedy, Al Guetzlaff, Dawn Imberi, Francisco Martinez, Michele Caskey, Alice Peterson and Keiko Skow

EXCUSED: 1 - Dwayne Olsen

Guests: Tai Klyzub Kalmar, Jephrey Valliere, Krysta Venegas

Approval of Minutes for the July 7, 2017 Meeting.

Treasurer's report

Acc't #11202-53480 - \$7,262.19

Acc't #20624-34500-10001 - \$1,832.16

Old Business

Kiwanis Christmas Ornament – Michele Caskey reported that she has been in touch with one of the Racine Kiwanis organizations and promoted the idea of using our sister city partners as a basis for a future tree ornament. This could become a presentational gift or an item for the Montélimar seasonal market.

Hygge Fest – Dave Blank assures Michele that Hygge Fest, highlighting the Danish heritage in our community, will take place from Feb. 9-11 2018. Michele once again offered the help of our council to make the plans become reality.

Artwork for the Mayor's Office – The recent transfer of power in Racine has left the mayor's office bereft of wall hangings. Michele suggested that we offer artwork gifted from our partners in Aalborg to Mayor Wiser. A painting by Esben Hanefelt Kristiansen would make an attractive conversation piece.

New Business

Racine Unified/Sister City cooperation – Heather Godley brought to our attention two items that will help us stay in touch with Racine Schools. The newly proposed high school academies will fit nicely with the intern program we carried out with Montélimar. Also, we should make an effort to keep Dr. Gallien, the next superintendent, apprised of the work with school our exchanges.

Chairman's report

Oiso trip grant request –The Sister City Council requested donations on behalf of the three participants in the Oiso exchange and received \$200 per student from The Kiwanis Foundation of Racine, Inc. An individual citizen donated \$100 each, and both monetary gifts were added to the 20624-34500-10001 account. After some discussion, we affirmed the June decision to award each participant \$300.

Community presentation by Oiso delegation – The Oiso exchange participants, Tai, Jephrey and Blanca (as well as some of their parents), were present and eager to tell about their two weeks in Japan. It was apparent that these three were well chosen to represent Racine and our nation. We discussed how best to schedule two follow-up presentations: one to the community and a second to the Kiwanis group that offered financial help. The community presentation will take place at the Racine Public Library on Thursday, Sept. 7, and the Kiwanis presentation in October. The efforts of the Oiso sub-committee and the parents were recognized, and Keiko Skow suggested that the students write a note of thanks to the Oiso Sister City Council.

Alain Silve's visit – Rev. Guetzlaff received word from Alain Silve, chairman of the Montélimar Sister City Council, that he will not visit this fall. Monsieur Silve has decided to wait until an elected mayor is in office.

Committee Reports

Publicity and Information – The council discussed how we can best publicize the community presentation of the students who took part in the Oiso exchange this summer. Michele Caskey and Heather Godley will work on the Facebook page, and Rev. Guetzlaff will contact the Racine Journal-Times and Racine Unified spokesperson Stacy Tapp. We will also try to invite Racine's parochial schools as well as previous host families and participants in the Oiso exchanges.

Oiso – No additional items

Montélimar – No additional items

Aalborg – No report

Zapotlanejo – No report

Adjournment:

The August meeting adjourned at 5:50 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 4:30 p. m.