



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, September 13, 2017

4:30 PM

City Hall, Room 307

Call To Order

Guest: Amanda Henkel

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

EXCUSED: 1 - Michele Caskey

Approval of Minutes for the August 9, 2017 Meeting.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report

Account balances read as follows:

Account number 11202-53480 - \$7285.19

Account number 20624-34500-10001 - \$1532.16

We discussed several anticipated expenses before year's end, such as ordering items we customarily present as gifts to our sister city visitors and an updated brochure with an insert from Racine's new mayor.

Old Business

Racine's commemorative art -

A gifted work of art from Aalborg is now hanging in the mayor's office. Interim Mayor Dennis Wiser rescued the painting from storage and has given it renewed prominence.

Hygge Fest –

Hygge Fest first came to our attention as a Racine County celebration of this area's Danish heritage. Originally it was scheduled to take place in February 2018, but recent developments indicate it may be postponed until 2019. The Sister City Council will continue to monitor and offer assistance as needed.

New Business

Visit by French teacher Amanda Henkel –

The Council met Amanda Henkel, French teacher at Walden III and Jerstad-Agerholm Middle Schools. Amanda expressed an interest in leading a student exchange and we discussed how we could work together to help her plans become reality. The Council will gladly support her by publicizing the effort and finding host families. We agreed to provide her with fliers and itineraries from previous exchanges. Amanda is interested in having some information ready for dissemination by early November when the first conferences are scheduled.

Chairman's report

Meeting of Oiso delegation and donor – Former Sister City chairman Ken Wagner helped defray the cost for participants in last summer's Oiso visit with a monetary donation. Rev. Guetzlaff circulated photos of the three participants as they met and thanked Mr. Wagner in person.

Community presentation by Oiso delegation – Tai, Jephrey and Krysta, the three Racine high school students who took part in the exchange with Oiso last summer, gave the public an opportunity to hear about their two weeks in Japan. On the evening of September 7, they presented at the Racine Public Library. The program was well attended and well received. The students will present once again for the Kiwanis Foundation of Racine, Inc. Keiko Skow reported that she has received positive feedback from the Oiso Council regarding the exchange.

Committee Reports

Publicity and Information – The Publicity and Information committee plans to collect photos from the participants in the Oiso exchange last summer. The plan is to send some photos to Oiso and use others as a recruiting tool for future exchanges.

Oiso – Keiko Skow informed us that a local magazine in Oiso wrote a feature article on the visit of Racine students last summer. She hopes to bring a copy of the publication to our next meeting.

Montélimar - We anticipate student exchange activity in 2018. Our partners at Lycée Alain Borne would like to visit in the spring, and the Council will once again assist in the planning.

Aalborg – Alice Peterson contacted the Aalborg council to find out about their plans for a Christmas market and what role Racine might be able to play. She has not yet heard back.

Zapotlanejo – No report

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.