



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Sister City Planning Committee

*Dwayne Olsen*  
*Dawn Imberi*  
*Michele Caskey*  
*Alice Peterson*  
*Keiko Skow*  
*Tom Kennedy*  
*Francisco Martinez*  
*Linda O'Connell*  
*Al Guetzlaff*  
*Abey Kuruvilla*  
*Heather Godley*

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Wednesday, May 16, 2018

4:30 PM

City Hall Room 207A

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#### Call To Order

**PRESENT:** 5 - Keiko Skow, Tom Kennedy, Francisco Martinez, Linda O'Connell and Al Guetzlaff

**ABSENT:** 3 - Dwayne Olsen, Abey Kuruvilla and Heather Godley

**EXCUSED:** 3 - Dawn Imberi, Michele Caskey and Alice Peterson

#### Approval of Minutes for the March 14, 2018 Meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Acc't #11202-53480 - \$7,110.00  
Acc't #20624-34500-10001 - \$1,532.16

*The 20624-34500-10001 account will soon be increased to \$1722.36 due to expenses that our visitors from Montélimar agreed to share. Rev. Guetzlaff circulated a register of expenses we incurred as a result of the events.*

#### Chairman's Report

*Update on Montelimar summer visit*  
*We learned that our plans to host a delegation from Montélimar will have to be cancelled. The Mayor Reynier informed us that pressing business at home will make a June visit impossible.*

#### Committee Reports

*Publicity and Information - Linda O'Connell and Michele Caskey continue to gather visuals and accompanying texts for inclusion in the updated Sister City brochure. With Mayor Mason in attendance we were able to confirm that—as chief spokesman for our efforts—he will add a paragraph or two.*

*Oiso – Keiko Skow informed us that Racine will host three high-school age students from Oiso from July 20 to August 2, 2018. The Sister City Council will immediately begin the search for appropriate host families. Mayor Mason offered the use of the communication system (CORI) that connects municipal employees as a recruitment tool. The Oiso sub-committee has begun working on an itinerary for our Japanese guests.*

*Montélimar - As we reflected on the visit by Lycée Alain Borne, several suggestions for improvement were voiced. Recruiting host families should start sooner so that hosts and guests have a better chance to get acquainted. We can also ameliorate the get-acquainted process by reinstituting the form offering French students an opportunity to introduce themselves to host families. Publicity during their one-week stay was favorable, and we briefly discussed the idea of using local radio stations in addition to newspaper and social media to highlight the exchange. In general, the council expressed positive reflections on behalf of the seventeen students and two chaperones from our French sister city.*

*Franc Martinez has begun to plan for the next leg of the exchange, when Racine students will travel to France during spring break 2019. On Monday, 14 May the Sister City Council hosted an informational meeting at the Racine Public Library for interested students and their parents. Franc is confident that there is enough interest to double the number of participants from the previous trip in 2017.*

*Aalborg – No report*

*Zapotlanejo – No report*

## **Old Business**

*Old business items have been covered in previous portions of the minutes.*

## **New Business**

*We were pleased to welcome Mayor Mason to our meeting, and enjoyed the opportunity to have a dialogue about the work of our council. Of particular interest was our relationship with Aalborg, Denmark, which has an international reputation as an environmentally-friendly city. Mayor Mason is aware of Aalborg's recent history featuring its transformation from an industrial center to a city more amenable to tourism. The Sister City Council pledged its help in case the current administration wants to contact Aalborg.*

## **Adjournment**

*The May meeting adjourned at 5:37 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 20, 2018.*