



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Sister City Planning Committee

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

4:30 PM

Call To Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm

PRESENT: 7 - Michele Caskey, Alice Peterson, Keiko Skow, Francisco Martinez, Linda O'Connell, Al Guetzlaff and Tom Kennedy

ABSENT: 2 - Abey Kuruvilla and Julie Nelson

Approval of Minutes for the December 2018 Meeting.

Approve the Minutes of the December 19, 2018 meeting

Treasurer's Report

Account balances for the new year read as follows:

Account number 11202-53480 - \$10,000

Account number 20624-34500-10001 \$1722.16

Chairman's Report

Resignation

Rev. Guetzlaff circulated an email from Julie Nelson, who regretfully informed us that she has decided to resign from the Sister City due to time conflicts.

Committee assignments and meeting schedule

Two lists, one with committee assignments and another with a schedule of meetings for the year, were also passed out. There will likely be some amendments to the list of committee assignments.

Committee Reports

Publicity and Information

Michele Caskey and Linda O'Connell brought us up to date on the status of the newly minted publicity brochure. Since the previous meeting the printer has worked on the text and photos to produce a layout. All that remains are a few minor adjustments in the text and the brochure will be ready to roll out. The first view of the work-in-progress met with immediate approval by council members.

Oiso

Keiko Skow provided an update on the summer 2019 plans, which will send Racine high school students to Oiso for a homestay program. We now know that our partners in Japan plan to accommodate three students from July 4 to July 18. The Oiso subcommittee will start preparing by scheduling informational meetings for students

and their families, as well as contacting local service organizations to solicit donations that can lower the cost for participants.

Montélimar

Franc Martinez will lead a group of five Racine high school students on a study/homestay program to France in the spring of 2019. He reports that two students are totally paid up and the remaining three will make their final payment soon. The trip will take place during spring break, and most of their days will be spent in Montélimar.

Rev. Guetzlaff distributed a copy of an email from Anyssa Koussa, a post-secondary student from Montélimar, who is interested in securing an internship in the Racine area. Even though our participation in the program that biannually sent interns to Racine has ended, the prospects for Anyssa are optimistic. Former council member Joan Roehre has offered housing, and Mayor Mason is willing to find a situation at City Hall. The internship would run from mid-May to mid-July.

The French teacher at The Prairie School, Mme. Edith Soghomonian, has decided not to continue the student exchange program with Alain Borne School in Montélimar, but she has indicated she would help publicize the study trip piloted by Franc Martinez.

Aalborg

Mayor Mason continues to show an interest in visiting Aalborg to see first-hand some of the effort that our Danish sister city has put into repurposing outdated manufacturing sites and creating an environmentally friendly cityscape. We learned that July is not the ideal time for such a visit, since much of Denmark's business community is closed down at that time. Reverend Guetzlaff will facilitate communication between Racine and Aalborg as we work on an itinerary.

Zapotlanejo No report

Old Business

Keiko Skow brought a card to send to Dwayne Olsen, who stepped down from the Sister City Council last month. Each of us had a chance to sign and offer our thanks to Dwayne for his service.

New Business

Items have been covered in prior portions of these minutes.

Adjournment

The January meeting adjourned at 5:48 p. m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 4:30 p. m.