



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes

Sister City Planning Committee

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

4:30 PM

City Hall Conference Room 207A

Call To Order Rev. Guetzlaff called the April meeting to order at 4:31 P.M.

Attendance: Rev. Al Guetzlaff, Michele Caskey, Tom Kennedy, Franc Martinez, Linda O'Connell, Alice Peterson, Keiko Skow; Excused: Annika Bolter, Heather Godley

Secretary's report - Approval of Minutes for the March 20, 2019 Meeting

Treasurer's report: Account Balances read as follows:

- ☐ Acc't #11202-53480 \$7,132.65
- ☐ Acc't #20624-34500-10001 \$2,132.98

Chairman's report - Montelimar student visit - Four Racine high school students are just days away from a trip to France, including a homestay in Montelimar and several days in Paris. Franc Martine will chaperone the group and confirms that host families and guests have been in touch via social networking. On the heels of the tragic news of the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral, Rev. Guetzlaff authored a letter which council members signed expressing our condolences and solidarity. The letter will be delivered in person by Franc to our Montelimar counterparts.

Oiso student visit – In July three Racine students will enjoy Japanese hospitality for two weeks as a part of their homestay program with Oiso. Keiko Skow informs us that guests and host families are likewise connected via social media. It was noted also that some of students will have more than one host family over the two-week stay. The Oiso subcommittee of our council continues to hold evening meetings for students and their families to sort through issues that will help them make the most of their time overseas. Alice Peterson suggested that the Sister City Council approach local fraternal organizations as we have done in the past in an effort to defray expenses for the participants.

Student internship update – Anyssa Koussa, a student in Montelimar, had arranged an internship in Racine during May and June of this year. Her school urged Anyssa to seek an opportunity that better aligned with the curriculum of her school's program. As a result, she will not be coming to Racine this summer.

Civic leadership visit to Aalborg – Racine's new designation as a Smart City has put renewed emphasis on the plans for a delegation to Aalborg this summer. Current plans call for the mayor and his family to visit Montelimar for the Republican Banquet in July, followed by a visit to Aalborg to see firsthand how sustainability has transformed our Danish sister city in the 21st century. The Sister City council has offered to help foster an exchange of information and ideas concerning what Racine would like to find out and what Aalborg can offer in return. Alice Peterson has contacted Mayor Mason to let him know she is available for translation assistance if the two sides want to schedule a phone or Skype chat.

New Business

Dawn Imberi memorial gift - Former council member Dawn Imberi, who passed away earlier this month, requested memorial gifts to the Sister City Council in her obituary. Because of Dawn's close affiliation with Oiso, we discussed the ideas of making some of these funds available to this year's student delegation.

Vacancies and Recruitment – Rev. Guetzlaff reminded members that our council still has vacancies waiting to be filled by ambitious, results-oriented citizens.

New brochure and technology – Linda O'Connell had questions about digitizing the new publicity brochure so that it can be uploaded to our Facebook account. She will contact someone at City Hall for help.

Adjournment: The April meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

If you are disabled and have accessibility needs or need information interpreted for you, please contact The Mayor's Office at 262-636-9111] at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.