



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Sister City Planning Committee

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

4:30 PM

City Hall Conference Room 207A

Call To Order

Also In attendance Mayor Mason, Ashley Sanchez, and Keough Lemieux

PRESENT: 6 - Alice Peterson, Keiko Skow, Linda O'Connell, Al Guetzlaff, Tom Kennedy and Annika Bolter

ABSENT: 3 - Michele Caskey, Francisco Martinez and Abey Kuruvilla

Secretary's Report:

An amended report will be submitted to include Annika Bolter's name to the list of excused absentees at the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Account number 11202 - 53480 - \$6,322.65

Account number 20624 - 34500 - 10001 - \$2,795.95

Chairman's Report:

Mayor Mason's trip to Montélimar – Mayor Corey Mason recently returned from Montélimar, where he and his family enjoyed the hospitality of our sister city partners in France. Mayor Mason and dignitaries from Montélimar's other sister cities (including Germany, Italy and Armenia) were invited to attend festivities surrounding the Republican Banquet, and his presence was vital as we continue to work on cooperative efforts such as school partnerships and Racine's planned Smart City Conference in September, 2019. We spent a few moments discussing ideas for presentational gifts from Racine for occasions such as this one.

World Firefighters Games – Rev. Guetzlaff circulated a letter from Thomas Kastrup-Larsen, mayor of Aalborg, announcing an international sports competition for the firefighters of Aalborg's numerous sister cities. The games are scheduled for August, 2020.

Old Business:

Student visit to Oiso – While this meeting was in progress, two Racine students were wending their way home from a two-week homestay in Oiso. Social media posts from the students indicate that their time in Japan has been filled with worthwhile activities. The Oiso sub-committee will plan a public event to showcase the students' impressions of their visit, including the presentation of a letter from Oiso's mayor. Rev. Guetzlaff will coordinate the details of this community event with Ashley Sanchez.

Civic leadership visit to Aalborg – As previously reported, a proposed meeting between

Mayor Mason and Aalborg officials has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts. We have been informed that Aalborg's mayor cannot attend Racine's Smart City Conference in September, 2019, but we hope Aalborg can be represented by someone who is knowledgeable about the city's transformation to a vibrant 21st century community.

New Business:

Committee recruitment strategies – For years the Sister City Council has been without representation from the City Council, so we were delighted to hear from Mayor Mason that he has spoken to City Council members and recruited on our behalf. We learned that Alderwoman Natalia Taft has expressed an interest in joining the Sister City Council, and we look forward to welcoming her soon.

Adjournment:

The July meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 21, 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.