



Sierra Vista City Council

Work Session Agenda April 13, 2015

1. Call to order – 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona.
2. Environmental Affairs Commission Annual Report
3. Sister Cities Commission Annual Report
4. Tourism Commission Annual Report
5. Adjourn

City Council work sessions are informal meetings of the elected body designed to allow the Mayor and Council Members to prepare for upcoming regular meetings, have staff briefings on issues, and provide an opportunity for more detailed discussions amongst themselves. The meetings are limited by City ordinance to 90 minutes, and in accordance with the State Open Meeting Law, no discussion can take place on issues/topics that have not been posted on the agenda at least 24 hours in advance. The public is welcome to observe the meetings in person or on Cox Channel 12, but time is not reserved on work session agendas for public comment. The public may, however, address the City Council at their regular twice-monthly meetings or share written views through the City's website, www.SierraVistaAZ.gov.

Work Session Minutes
April 13, 2015

1. Mayor Mueller called the work session to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

City Council Members:

Mayor Rick Mueller – present
Mayor Pro Tem Bob Blanchard – present
Council Member Alesia Ash – present
Council Member Gwen Calhoun – present
Council Member Rachel Gray – absent
Council Member Hank Huisking – present
Council Member Craig Mount – present

Others present:

Chuck Potucek, City Manager
Mary Jacobs, Assistant City Manager
Jill Adams, City Clerk
Scott Dooley, Public Works Director
Victoria Yarbrough, Leisure & Library Director
Tom Kennedy, Vice Chairman, Environmental Affairs Commission
Environmental Affairs Commissioners
Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chair, Sister Cities Commission
Amanda Baillie, Tourism Commission

2. Environmental Affairs Commission Annual Report

Council Member Huisking voiced her appreciation for the following commissions that would present and introduced Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy, Vice Chairman, read the Commission's mission, introduced the members and provided the following 2014 accomplishments:

- Encouraged the City to expand recycling to include small businesses and apartment complexes;
 - o Currently have three installations: Port Royal Apartments, Knights of Columbus and Center for Academic Charter School;
- Monitored the progress of the P&Z Taskforce developing the City codes for digital signs;
 - o The digital code seems acceptable to all parties and it has been developed;
 - o Some members attended the night light demonstration and they were favorably impressed;
- Monitored discussions concerning use of plastic bags and gathered facts on what other communities are doing with this matter;
 - o Plastic bag is a highly controversial issue;
 - o Commission is taking the position to lay low, wait and watch approach;
- Toured the Mansker Project aka as the Palominas Recharge Project and recognized the benefits of what has been accomplished;
 - o Group did a rough estimate that included engineering time and came up with an approximate \$4 Million to design and build the project;

- Toured Fort Huachuca to view and discuss the various water saving projects that have been implemented;
 - o The commissary parking lot was impressive as it recovers a great deal of water during rain storms;
- Encourage the new Canyon Vista Medical Center to make provisions for pv solar during the building process;
 - o They put in provisions for power to go from the central power panels up through the roof for solar panels at a future date;
 - o Did not start out that way but it evolved that way;
- Proposed various other pv solar projects including street lights and parking lot lights for Council consideration;
 - o Still on the table;
 - o City does have three solar street lights in operation;
 - o Looking at other ways to defray solar design and construction costs;
 - o Looking at other major solar companies who have done similar things for other communities;
 - o Field trip to the Santa Fe Apartments
 - Produces over 100% of their usage so they are net 0 for electricity;
 - Project was done on grant money.

Council Member Ash asked if the inability to store solar a concern of the commission. Mr. Kennedy stated that the concern has been addressed by a lot of people. At this point in time to store energy is a massive undertaking. The storage for PV solar is done through SSVEC and it is virtual storage, there are no batteries and that is what is needed. The only way to store electrical energy is with batteries and to provide the number of batteries needed just for a residence would be massive. Very few people are talking about battery-type storage for electricity. The day may come with all of the new technologies, hydrogen fuel cells and things like that when that is viable.

- Followed discussion on Central Arizona Project and recommended that no additional funds be spent on this project;
- Toured the Santa Fe Springs apartment complex to better understand the commercial benefits of pv solar;
 - o Project done on grant money;
- Manned an environmental information booth at the West End Fair;
- Hosted presentations from the Cochise Water Project and Water Wise Managers.

Mr. Kennedy stated that the following four objectives for 2015 were voted on by the Commission to see how everyone felt about the most popular items and the Commission provided these to the Council liaison for feedback from Council:

- Establish an Environmental Award Program to recognize and possible reward those who do things to benefit the environment with no strings attached, limits and it can be for businesses or individuals;
- Continue to promote environmental awareness;
 - o West End Fair and others;
- Continue to address pv solar development;
 - o Grants particularly for the City;
 - o Brainstorming session for other ways to think out of the box;
- Investigate and advise the City on property clean up;
 - o Number one;
 - o Commissioners will watch the west end.

Mayor Mueller stated that Council has not yet discussed what they want each of the commissions to focus on but Council could use all of the help that they can get on property clean up.

In response to Mayor Mueller voiced his concern with the verb "investigate" and stated that he assumes the Commission means that if there is a brown field related problem or something else that Council does not have knowledge of, that the Commission is willing to investigate ways to clean it up or procedures with Council. Investigate with properties – obviously there is someone going out to investigate the current situation which is different. Mr. Kennedy explained that the word investigate was out of context.

Mayor Mueller stated that his understanding was that when the Council did this before with the Fry Taskforce there were areas to be considered brown fields that have been addressed; but he is unsure what may be found. Mr. Kennedy explained that this is the first time that this has been done for some years and it is a work in progress. The committee was recently formed and it will be headed by Norm Patten and the Committee will take any direction that Council sends their way.

Mayor Mueller stated that an Environmental Award Program is a good thing but there has to be established standards and a formal plan written out as to what the minimum requirements are to be considered. Mr. Kennedy stated that the latter is the way that it is going to be as the Commission is not going to be giving out awards. Council will give out the awards and the ground rules have been discussed.

Council Member Mount stated that he has learned a lot about water by being a part of the Upper San Pedro Partnership, from the Mayor, Water Wise, and the Cochise Water Project. The EAC is vital and he is interested in how the Commission is matrixing its efforts and if there are other commissions that has worked with the EAC. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Commission mainly works with the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Council Member Mount stated that he appreciates the idea of brainstorming as it is critical and asked if the Commission has met with Economic Development Director. Mr. Kennedy stated that not yet but the Commission wants to invite her to a meeting.

Council Member Calhoun thanked the Commission and stated that she did enjoy her time working with the EAC. One thing that has come up again and was not fully addressed as a Council is Council's response to a commissions' letter.

Council Member Calhoun asked how the EAC encouraged Canyon Vista to install the solar piping necessary for the future. Mr. Kennedy stated that the Commission made the recommendation but he is not sure how it was encouraged. Ms. Jacobs stated that at the time Mr. Brush was the liaison to the EAC and he was worked with her on negotiation an agreement with the hospital and that was one of the things that were included in the agreement that they concurred with.

Council Member Huisking thanked Mr. Kennedy for the presentation and stated that she appreciates the efforts by the dedicated commissioners, really likes the idea of the Environmental Award and believes that this is something that the economic development director would appreciate as well.

Mr. Kennedy stated that Ms. Mulhern is going to do that as she is qualified.

Council Member Huisking stated that the one thing that was not mentioned was the presentation by Mr. Tate who works for Castle and Cooke. He applied the water sense standards to the new houses going up by Castle and Cooke for low water use appliances and the way things were built.

Mr. Kennedy stated that Mr. Tate did more than just water, he did about five to six things with his company but he did not feel comfortable presenting that because it is company, Castle and Cooke, thing. If anyone were to do it, it should be Mr. Tate. He has done a tremendous job.

Council Member Huisking stated that property cleanup goes with the strategic planning goals for the next two years.

3. Sister Cities Commission Annual Report

Council Member Huisking introduced Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairman, and stated that she is taking a break because the Radebeul students are in Cananea, Sonora for the week.

Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert pointed out that the City's sister cities are Cananea, Sonora, Mexico and the City and Cananea have been sister cities since April 1989. The other sister city is Radebeul, Saxony, Germany which the City has been a sister city to since May 1998.

Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert read the vision/mission statements and introduced the commissioners. Currently there is one vacancy but she has recently received three applications.

Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert provided a summary of the activities 2014-2015:

- Exchange of information and visits to the Mexican Consulate in Douglas, Arizona;
- Visit with City staff members of the fall festival in Cananea;
- Visiting performances of dance groups from Sonora;
- Collection of adult and children's clothing and delivery to Cananea;
- Collection of school supplies for Cananea (crayons and paper);
- Donations from the mall of Sierra Vista (basketballs, backpacks) and distribution;
- Participation in Cultural Heritage celebration (Diversity Fair).

The biggest activity is the Student Exchange:

- In October 2014 eight students from Buena High School and eight students from Cananea went to Radebeul;
- The Commission organized and managed all 16 kids and chaperons by:
 - o Plane tickets and transportation to and from the airport;
 - o Health insurance for the kids;
 - o Matched hosts and students;
 - o Parent meetings;
 - o Supplied all necessary forms and documentation;
 - o All communication between Radebeul, Cananea and Sierra Vista;
- Currently there are 16 German exchange students in Sierra Vista and Cananea.
- The Commission organized and managed all 16 kids and chaperons by:
 - o Planning daily activities;
 - o Communication between the high school principal, club, the City and all involved organization, i.e., Park Ranger, B-Troop, Davis Monthan Airbase, and Mexico;

- Finding, vetting and preparing host families;
- Chaperons daily on tours;
- Planning and executing a three-day trip to the Grand Canyon where Commissioners are the tour guides and drivers;
- Organized a picnic for all hosts and kids;
- All activities offered for the kids are free of charge for them and the cost for the Commission is about \$3,000;
- Commissioners visit the high school club meetings about two times a month to support fund raising, prepare presentations and exchange ideas to support the club's needs.

Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert provided slides with pictures of the Commission's activities and provided information on fund raising events:

- Oktoberfest in September at Veterans' Memorial Park:
 - o Two-day event that the Commission plans and staffs;
 - o Volunteers help, i.e., kids from high school club, friends and family;
 - o Sale of brats;
 - o Made about \$6,800 last year; and
- Night Of Extraordinary Lights on Fort Huachuca:
 - o December;
 - o Christmas Village;
 - o Two-day event (got rained out)
 - o Staffed by Commission, kids from the club;
 - o German community members came together to bake German Christmas cookies which were also donated by friends from Mexico;
 - o Sold cookies and German Christmas goodies/candy;
 - o Made about \$390 with the help from local businesses;
- Cultural Heritage Fair:
 - o First time the Commission had a concession stand;
 - o Commission members baked pretzels;
 - o Nachos and German pretzels;
 - o Made \$0.

Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert talked about the Arizona Tax Credit which helps out the Commission with what they are doing along with community donations. The German American Club and Kiwanis provided donations.

Himstedt-Gilbert provided the Commission's 2015 goals:

- Evaluate current activities;
- Expansion of Sister Cities Club in Buena High School;
- Involve more schools within Sierra Vista and Cochise County, i.e., Bisbee and Tombstone;
- Work with the Tourism Commission on opportunities to promote Sierra Vista;
- Develop new programs, i.e., new fund raising options and adult exchange between the countries;
- Work with Cananea, Sonora Mexico for a student exchange;
- Help in furthering all three cities with the exchange on various city levels.

Council Member Mount stated that he was not aware that the funds from the sale of the brats at the Oktoberfest go towards the Commission. He also stated that he does believe that promoting Sierra Vista in partnership with the Tourism Commission is fantastic and asked if the Commission works with other commissions. Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert stated that there is

nothing right now but the Commission has worked with the Cultural Diversity Commission on the fair and have talked about working with the Youth Commission and the West End Commission. However, the Commission decided not to proceed with the sale of food at the West End Fair due to the problems in trying to set up for the sale of food due to water and electricity.

Council Member Mount asked if the Commission has met with Economic Development Director. Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert stated that they have not.

Council Member Mount stated that he is interested in building markets and with Sierra Vista understanding the aspects of culture and good will, especially with Cananea and these are two great things to have if we want to strengthen the economic market.

Council Member Calhoun thanked Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert for her presentation and stated that she would like to be informed of events in Cananea or any other northern Mexico communities that are interested in having an exchange or being involved with and inviting them to City functions.

Council Member Ash asked if the Commission has trouble with parents allowing their children to go to Cananea. Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert stated that they do because there is a certain perception in the community but she also believes that there are very motivated children that want to be involved.

Council Member Ash pointed out that the narrative of high school students being able to go and travel to Mexico and be safe and enjoy their time would be a great narrative to promote tourism as the City is looking at economic development.

Council Member Huisking thanked Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert and stated that the Commission has done a fabulous job. For years the City has been hearing about the exchanges. In 2009 she was able to go to Radabeul not with the students but on an official visit and it is a wonderful city. If the City gets an opportunity to showcase the Sister Cities in other ways other than just talking about it and work it out with tourism and economic development, and an adult exchange beyond the student exchange. The student exchange is important.

Mayor Mueller stated that when he spoke to Mr. ~~Terezon~~^{AA} the Presidente Municipal from Cananea, he was eagerly looking forward to the students coming to visit.

In response to Council Member Huisking inquiries, Mayor Mueller stated that June is the timeframe where Mr. Terezon is looking at hosting the next Border Mayors Meeting and in response to Council Member Ash's concerns, one of the reasons that the Border Mayors formed is to show people that it is relatively safe on both side of the border to travel and while any time one travels internationally there is concern; however, the City does not have the same issues elsewhere in Mexico. As long as people are aware of that they should be relatively safe.

Mayor Mueller asked if in the next couple of years the Commission ^{C. 3,} would consider becoming a Sister Cities Foundation. The Commission would be their own 501(c)(3), ^{C.} their own stand alone organization and obviously to do that the Commission would still need some City support in getting that process done.

Ms. Himstedt-Gilbert stated that she would have to bring that up to the Commission for discussion. Mayor Mueller stated that a lot of cities will do this through a 5013C, private entity, tax deductible and they set up their own structure and a few other things. Maybe that is the future and it warrants some discussion.

4. Tourism Commission Annual Report

Council Member Huisiking introduced Ms. Baillie, Tourism Commissioner. Ms. Cobb, Chairman, thanked Ms. Baillie who introduced the commissioners.

Ms. Baillie stated that there will be two vacancies available and currently there are two applications that will be considered.

Ms. Baillie stated that the U Rock Awards was started about eight or nine years ago to recognize excellence in the tourism industry. During the past couple of years, the Commission has seen a handful of businesses entering these awards and also found that the award was being given to the same businesses year after year. The participation that was being hoped for was not there along with a very small budget to work with. Last year the Commission provided the food out of their own pockets and so they reviewed the awards and concluded that they were not really relevant to the Commission's mission anymore and to what they are trying to do to promote tourism in the area. The buy-in from the tourism industry was not there as well so it was decided to put it aside and felt that it has run its course in its current form.

The Commission has been talking about the possibility of looking at new awards, i.e., The Best of Sierra Vista or even Cochise County. The Commission feels that this will bring in more far reaching marketing possibilities and entries as well.

Restaurant Week was started about four to five years ago to promote the restaurant industry and the restaurants were encouraged to offer discounts during the week of the event. In 2014 Restaurant Week took place in September and there were 17 participating restaurants that offered to discount between 10% and 25%. However, the majority was only willing to offer 10% and the Commission found that it was not enough to bring people out so the numbers were not where the Commission would have liked them to be. The restaurants were also reluctant to fill out the paperwork given to them and so there was no tracking and the Commission was not sure how the event was doing. A lot of time and effort was spent visiting every restaurant and encouraged participation and did follow-up. After lengthy discussions, the Commission decided that without more buy-in from the restaurants, the Commission would probably not continue this event. The Commission feels that the event could be taken over by an organization i.e., The Chamber who could do better at marketing and get more participation from its members. A different approach should be taken, i.e., a fixed price on the menu.

Last year the Commission started Fam Tours because the Commission felt that in order to be a more effective commission, they needed to learn more about the attractions that the Commission is trying to get people to come and see. The trips are done every couple of months and they have toured:

- Amerind Musuem;
- Fort Huachuca;

Ms. Ballie stated that the best part of the day was spent at Fort Huachuca as they went to Ginny's Diner, went bowling and visited the museums to show people that Fort Huachuca is not just a military installation. People can actually go and have a day out there.

- Patterson Observatory at the U of A; and
- Private tour of Ramsey Canyon.

Ms. Baillie stated that the Commission also had a booth at the Chamber's Health and Welfare Fair to promote local attractions to local people and the Commission did find that a lot of people did not realize what is in the area to visit and to go do.

Quarterly meetings are held with the City's tourism partners. The idea behind this was to ask members of the tourism industry to join the Commission and to talk about what is going on in their businesses. There is also a guest speaker at the meetings related to the tourism industry. The Commission has seen an increase in attendance and getting about an average of about 25 to 30 people, which demonstrates that members of the tourism community want to work together and they want to increase exposure to attract more visitors to the area. These are the people on the front line and it is important that City remain engaged with them so the Commission feels it is important to hold these meeting and to continue the conservations.

Ms. Biemi recognized Ms. Erwin who organizes the meetings, guest speakers and has done a superb job at encouraging people to attend.

Mr. Gent brought an idea to the Tourism Commission regarding an effort to designate Chiricahau National Monument as a National Park which the Commission supports. Although, it is a two-hour drive from Sierra Vista, the Commission supports this because the Commission believes that the national park designation will increase the prestige of the Chiricahuas, will raise the profile of Cochise County both nationally and internationally and in turn will help strengthen the local and regional tourism economy as well as the economy overall. Sierra Vista is the hub of this region and the Commission would like to capitalize on the additional tourism that the designation would bring.

The major tourism attractions lay beyond Sierra Vista's borders and the Commission therefore needs to look at a farther field when trying to meet the needs of the Commission and the needs of the tourism industry.

Mayor Mueller asked if the Commission is pursuing the designation in conjunction with Cochise County Tourism. Ms. Baillie explained that the Commission is reaching out to other partners, the County Tourism Contortion, Martha McSally and senators as well because this would require legislation.

Mr. Gent has spoken to Ms. McSally who has indicated that she would like to talk further about it. He has also reached out to many groups and organizations. No one yet has opposed the idea so the Commission is asking that the Council also support the designation as well.

The Commission came up with the following three priorities, high-cost events for the future of tourism in Sierra Vista prior to Council's Strategic Planning Meeting:

- Explore funding options:
 - o Seek out more grants earmarked for tourism;
 - o Utilize in-house and outside expert grant writers;
 - o Lodging tax and maybe utilizing a larger portion of that specifically for tourism for a regular income coming in for that;
 - o Explore more cooperative advertising partnerships, there are a lot of local businesses and organizations willing to help out, i.e., the mall, Chamber of

- Commerce, EDF, SEAGO, Cochise College, Cochise County, Tombstone, Bisbee and the private sector.
- Need to think out of the box where the money is coming from and who is going to work with the City.
- Convention center, most important and critical to improve tourism and economic development:
 - Top priority because we don't have the facility and so the City is turning away people and events;
 - Explore existing buildings – The Palms, former Sutherland and Apache Middle School;
- Visitor center relocation:
 - Not in a tourist friendly location, poorly signed and off the track;
 - People go there first;
 - Explore Fry or Garden Avenue;
 - Joint relocation with the Chamber as they work hand in hand;
 - Short term would be better signage stored and explore sponsorships for the signs to help promote the community.

Council Member Mount asked if the Tourism Commission works closely with other commissions. Ms. Baillie stated that the Commission does not work with other commissions.

Council Member Mount asked if the Tourism Commission has met with the economic development manager. Ms. Baillie stated that she has not.

Council Member Mount stated that the hotel association is very much interlocked with the Tourism Commission and he is aware that there have been discussions about partnering with business entities; but he believes that the Tourism Commission is going to play a pivotal role in getting the City's economic future put together. Conversations about Millions of dollars in local revenue and Hundreds of Thousands of dollars against the City's coffers, tax revenue.

Council Member Mount stated that he is glad that Chamber has an influence; but as far as tourism, he was lucky to speak to the Tourism Commission and he talked about business tourism. As an economic focus, promoting more events, i.e., sports tourism, Chrome Pony Rally versus attractions. He is not sure if attractions bring in as many people. Sierra Vista clearly has the climate for promoting some of these events and the lodging tax is a brilliant idea. The point of that is if there is 5.5% accommodation tax or hotel tax, that a portion of that be earmarked on behalf of the City and the rest to go the General Fund. These incentives the City to work more closely with the Tourism Commission with the Hotel Association in order to have two stakes in it so the City is doing its part and is getting some money and then the businesses are also reacting in a certain way where they are getting something in return.

Mayor Mueller stated that there was a time when the City did earmark some of the money specifically for marketing for tourism rather than the hotel/motel tax.

Council Member Calhoun thanked Ms. Baillie for her presentation and stated that she appreciates the fact that the Commission evaluated the programs and the Commission is willing to let them go if they were not working and coming up with new projects. She believes that the Tourism Commission has a lot of stake in helping and has helped and shown the Council ways that there are opportunities to do more.

Council Member Calhoun asked what can Council do that is helpful to the Commission. Ms. Baillie stated that more direction for ideas in moving forward from Council would be appreciated along with a budget.

Council Member Huisking stated that the Commission has a stellar group of people and it is well rounded with wonderful knowledge and she hopes that Council will make use of their expertise because they know how to market those ideas. She believes that the evaluation of the programs that were not working was a direct result of the Strategic Planning Session. The brain storming session was great because the Commission looked at what the Commission really wanted, what is possible and what could the community really use and those things were what the Commission decided most were pressing. She specifically liked the proposed solutions and ways that a community and Council could address those things that have been burrs in the saddle for the community.

Council Member Huisking announced that she will be inviting the economic development manager to three commissions that she is a liaison to and she believes that the Chiricahua effort is good one and she would appreciate Council's support.

Mayor Mueller stated that he is glad to hear that the City has a Hotel Association and he is looking forward to being able to work with them and he would like to know to whom he needs to talk to in order to discuss a restaurant association because the more partners that the City gets, the more help there is with exploring funding opportunities.

Mayor Mueller asked how large a group can be accommodated in a convention center. Ms. Baillie stated that about 200.

Mayor Mueller asked where the niche is that is not being served; because the City can do small and regional conventions in town. Ms. Baillie stated that the Astronomy Association wanted to hold their convention in town; but the City did not have the facilities that they needed and so they went to Tucson.

Mayor Mueller stated that the niche needs to be identified, whether it is practical and need to involve the private sector as much as possible to be able to fund this. Ms. Biami stated that the Commission thought of naming rights.

Council Member Mount asked if it is just the one group that has been turned away. Mayor Mueller stated that periodically there have been groups, i.e., the 250. Ms. Baillie stated that Fort Huachuca has its annual Christmas Ball in Tucson instead of Sierra Vista.

Council Member Calhoun asked about the difference between a convention and conference. Ms. Baillie explained that there is not really a difference. Mayor Mueller stated that it probably depends on how time is spent there, if it is an overnight stay then it is a convention. A conference is just for the day. They are interchangeable.

5. Adjourn

Mayor Mueller adjourned the work session at 5:09 p.m.



Mayor Frederick W. Mueller

Minutes prepared by:



Maria G. Marsh, Deputy City Clerk

Attest:



Jill Adams, City Clerk

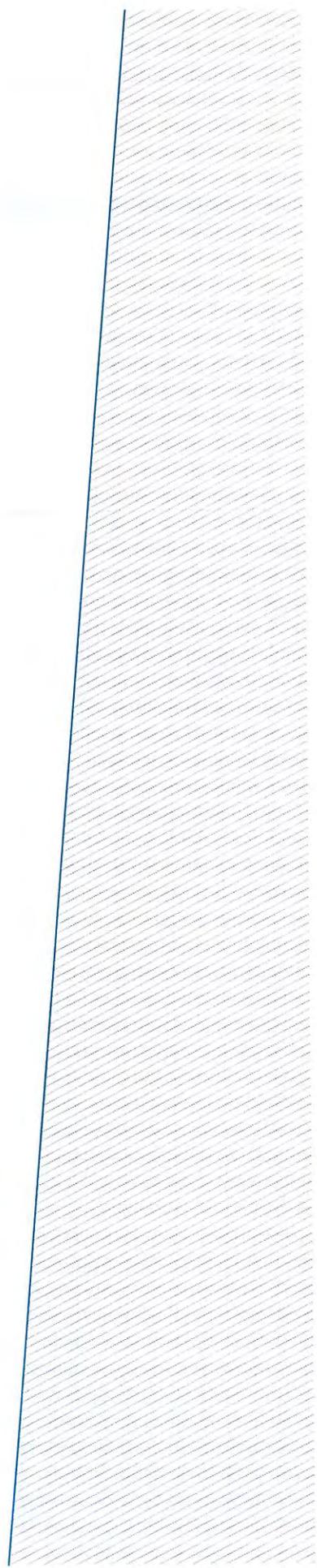


City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission
2015 Annual Review

Environmental Affairs Commission

Annual Report to the Sierra Vista City Council April 13, 2015





City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission 2015 Annual Review

Mission

Established in 1993, the EAC advises the City Council on matters of environmental issues and programs relating to reduction, reuse, recycling, energy conservation, environmental stewardship, waste management, regulatory compliance, water conservation, and community education.

The primary tasks of the EAC are to remain cognizant of the ever changing environmental field, to assess community attitudes toward environmental initiatives and issues, and to provide an assessment of impact to the City Council.





City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission
2015 Annual Review

EAC Members

Dennis Ehrenberger, Chairman

Tom Kennedy, Vice Chairman

George Monken, Secretary

Kim Mulhern

Tait Wilcox

Bernie Stalmann

Norm Patten

- Associate Members -

Gene Fenstermacher

Amy Carter

Council Liaison - Hank Huisking

Staff Liaison - Ryan Kooi

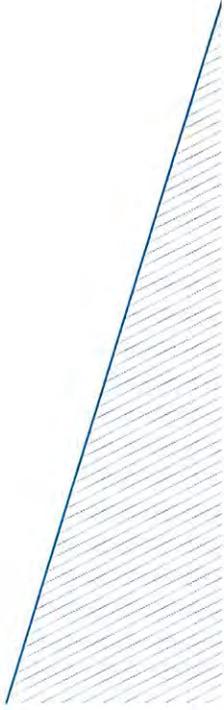


City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission
2015 Annual Review

2014 Accomplishments

- Encouraged the City to expand recycling to include small businesses and apartment complexes.
- Monitored the progress of the P & Z task force developing city codes for digital signs.
- Monitored discussions concerning use of plastic bags and gathered facts on what other communities are doing with this matter.
- Toured the Mansker project and recognized the benefits of what has been accomplished.
- Toured Fort Huachuca to view and discuss the various water saving projects that have been implemented.

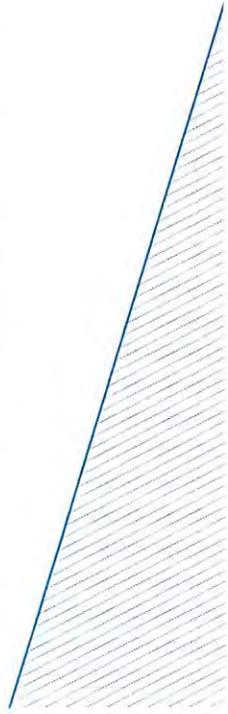




City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission
2015 Annual Review

- Encouraged the new Canyon Vista Medical Center to make provision for PV solar during the building process.
- Proposed various other PV solar projects including street lights and parking lot lights for City Council consideration.
- Toured the Santa Fe Springs apartment complex to better understand the commercial benefits of PV solar.
- Manned an environmental information booth at the West End Fair.
- Followed the discussions on CAP and recommended that no additional funds be spent on this project.
- Hosted presentations from the Cochise Water Project and Water Wise managers.





City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission
2015 Annual Review

Objectives for 2015

- Establish an Environmental Award Program
- Continue to promote environmental awareness
- Continue to address PV solar development
- Investigate and advise the City on property clean up





City of Sierra Vista
ARIZONA

Environmental Affairs Commission
2015 Annual Review

Comments?

Questions?



2015 Sister Cities Commission Report To:

Mayor Rick Mueller
Members of the City Council
City Manager Chuck Potucek
Assistant City Manager Mary Jacobs

Our Sister Cities

Cananea, Sonora,
Mexico

Radebeul, Saxony,
Germany

Sierra Vista and Cananea
have been Sister Cities
since April 1989

Sierra Vista and Radebeul
have been Sister Cities
since May 1998

Vision Statement

-- To focus community interest and build better understanding for the citizens of Sierra Vista, learning about the people and cultures of Radebeul, Germany, and Cananea, Mexico, through mutual visits and cultural, education and goodwill exchange programs.

Mission Statement

— It is the mission of the Sierra Vista Sister Cities Commission to establish and maintain relationships with our sister cities of Radebeul, Germany, and Cananea, Mexico.

Sierra Vista Sister Cities Commission

Hank Huisking

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Lourdes Montoya

Randi Buros

Anthony Sanders

Karin Finney

John McBee

One vacant seat

Victoria Yarbrough

Council Liaison

Chair

Vice-Chair

Treasurer

Member

Member

Member

Staff Liaison

Meetings are every third Monday of the month at
5:30 pm at Oscar Yrun Community Center

Activities 2014-2015

- Exchange of information and visits to the Mexican Consulate in Douglas, Arizona
- Visit with City Staff members of the Fall Festival in Cananea
- Visiting performances of dance groups from Sonora
- Collection of adult and children's clothing and delivery to Cananea
- Collection of school supplies for Cananea (crayons, paper)
- Donations from the Mall of Sierra Vista (basketballs, backpacks) and distribution
- Participation in Cultural Heritage Celebration (Diversity Fair)

Student Exchange

- In October 2014 eight students from Buena High School and eight students from Cananea went to Radebeul
- The commission organized and managed (for all 16 kids and chaperons):
 - Plane tickets and transportation to and from the airport
 - Health insurance for the kids
 - Matched hosts and students
 - Parent meetings
 - Supplied all necessary forms and documentation
 - All communication between Radebeul/Cananea/Sierra Vista

Student Exchange (continued)

- Currently there are sixteen German exchange students in Sierra Vista and/or Cananea
- The commission organized and managed (for all 16 kids and chaperons)
 - Planning daily activities
 - Communication between the high school (principal, club), the city and all involved organizations (Park Ranger, B-Troop, Davis Monthan Airbase, etc.) and Mexico
 - Finding, vetting and preparing host families (itineraries, travel updates, etc.)
 - Chaperons daily on tours

Student Exchange (continued)

- Planning and executing a three day trip to the Grand Canyon where commission members are tour guides and drivers
- Organized a picnic for all hosts and kids (German, Mexican, American)

**** All activities offered for the kids are free of charge for them!
Cost for the commission is about \$3000**

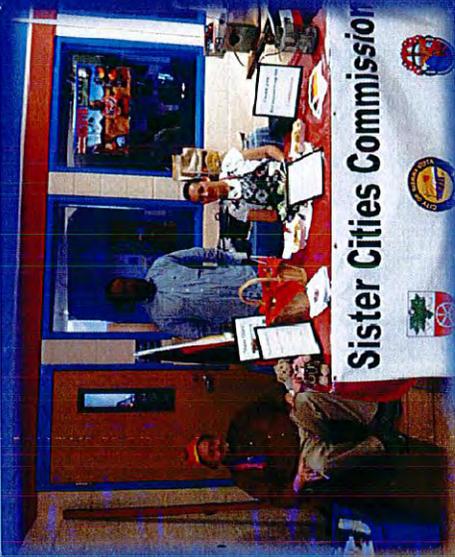
- Commission members visit the high school club meetings about two times a month to support fund raising, prepare presentations and exchange ideas to support the club needs

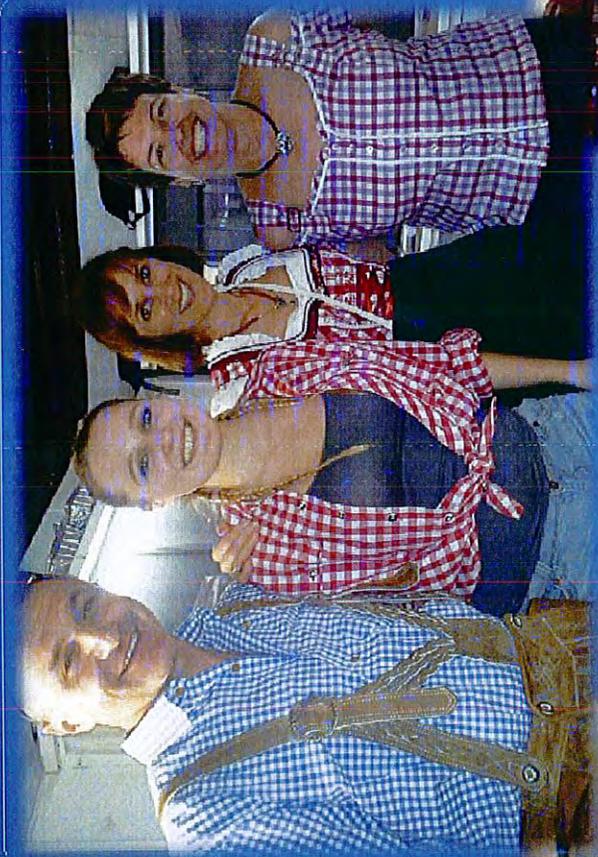
SCHOOL

Food, friends and fun in Germany



International exchange allows students to...





Fund Raising

- **Oktoberfest** (September in Veteran's Park)
 - Two day event that the commission plans and staffs
 - Volunteers helping (kids from high school club, friends, family)
 - Selling brats
 - made about \$6.800 last year
- **N.O.E.L.** (Night OF Extraordinary Lights) on Fort Huachuca
 - December, Christmas Village, two day event, got rained out on day two, staffed by commission, kids from club

Fund Raising (continued)

- German community members came together to bake German Christmas cookies. Cookies were also donated by our friends from Mexico
- Sold cookies and German Christmas goodies/candy
- Made about \$390 (with help from local businesses)

Cultural Heritage Fair

- Commission members baked pretzels
- Nachos and German pretzels
- Made about \$0
- **Arizona Tax Credit**
- **Community Donations** - German American Club and Kiwanis

2015 Goals

- Evaluate current activities
- Expansion of Sister Cities Club in BHS
- Involve more schools within Sierra Vista and Cochise County
- Work with Tourism Office on opportunities to promote SV
- Develop new programs
 - New fund raising options
 - Adult exchange between the countries
- Helping and furthering all three cities with the exchange on various city levels

Questions

Thank you for your support
of the
The Sister Cities Commission

Annual Presentation
April 2015



City of Sierra Vista Tourism Commission



COMMISSION MEMBERS

Glen Cobb

Mary Tieman

Diane Erwin

Sabra Albritton

Barbara Ashley

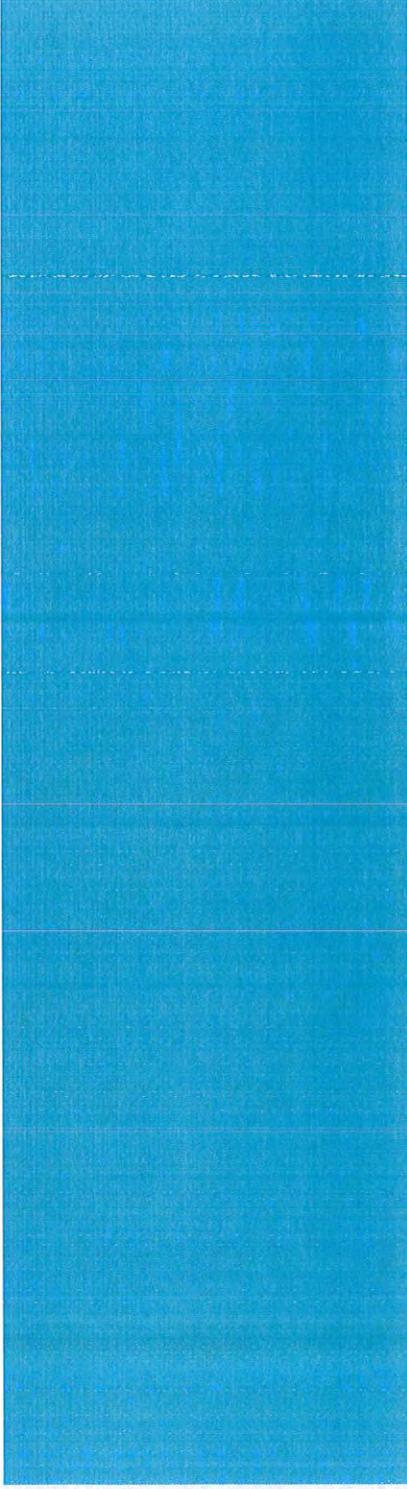
Robert Gent

Amanda Baillie

Hank Huisking – Council Liaison

Judy Hector – Staff Liaison

Angela Camara – Ft. Huachuca
Liaison

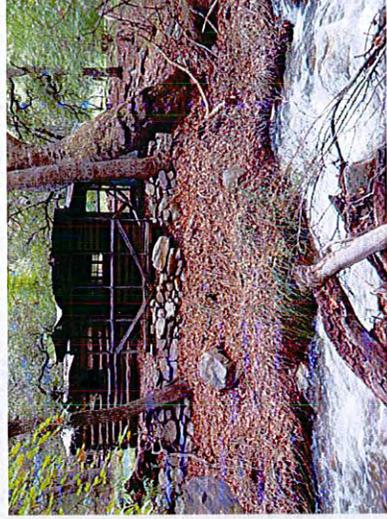
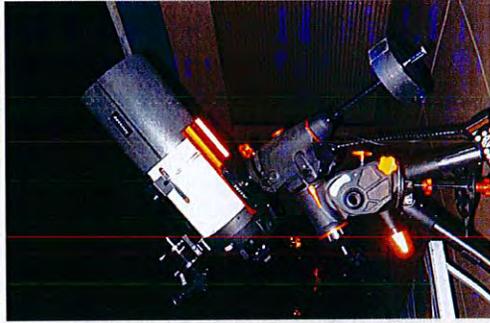


U Rock Awards 2014

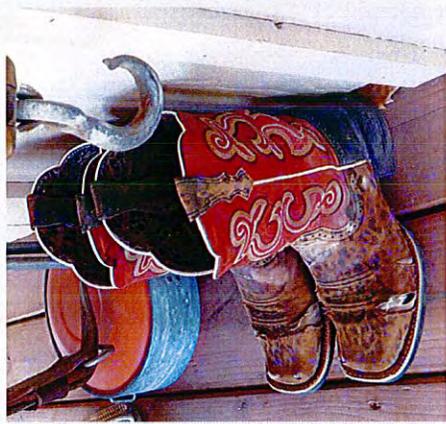
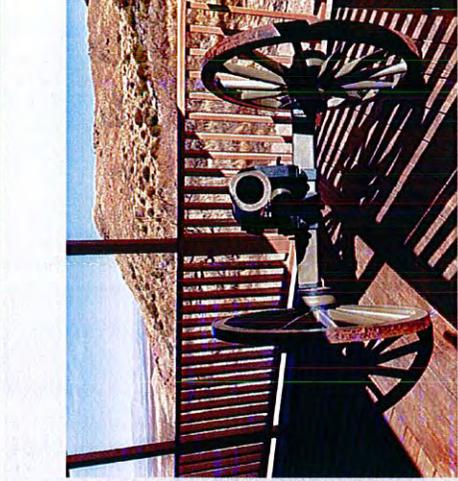




Restaurant Week 2014



Familiarization Tours

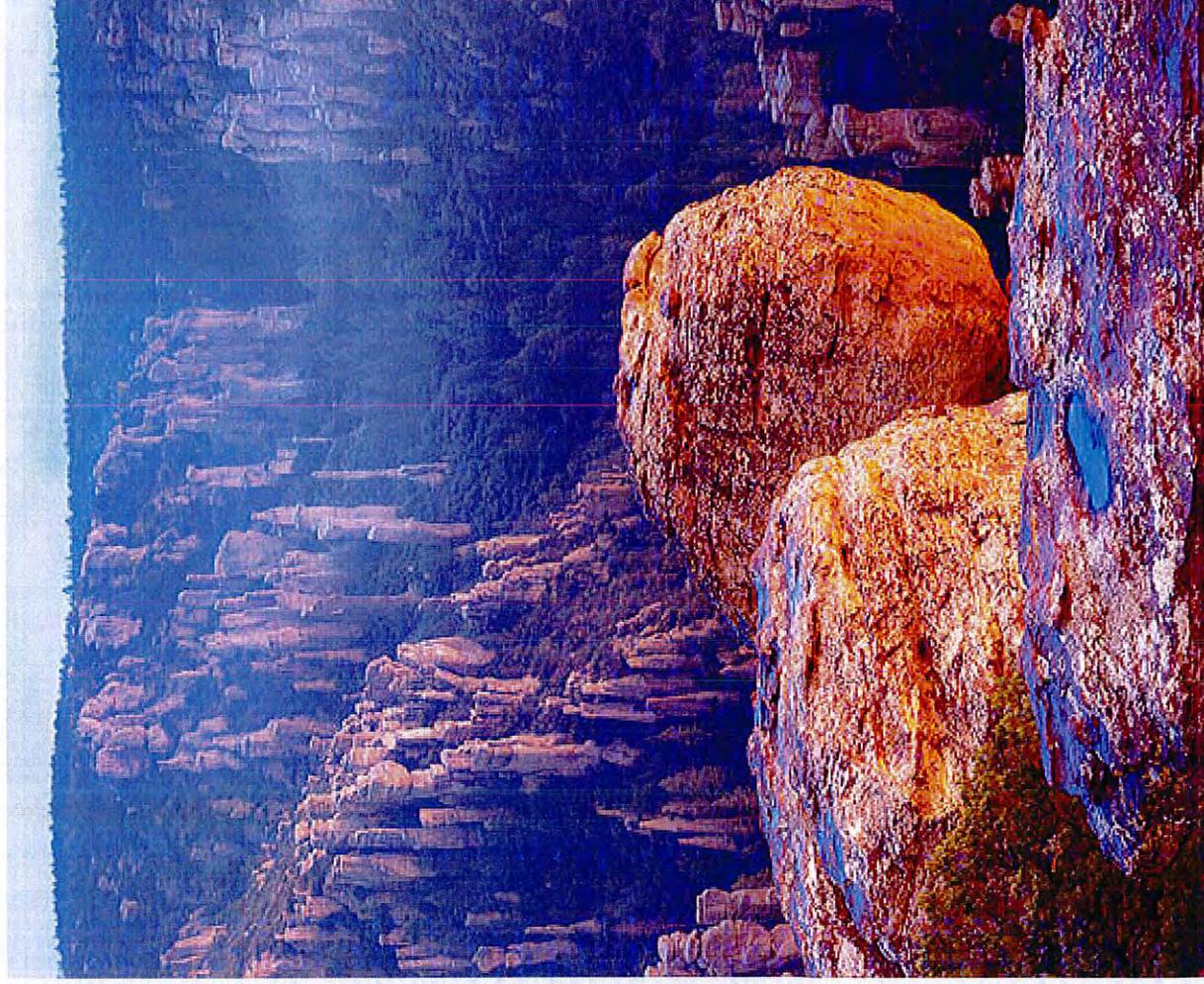


Tourism Partners Meeting

CHIRICAHUA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Tourism
Commission
strongly supports
an effort to
designate

Chiricahau National
Monument as a
National Park



Strategic Plan
Recommendations

Explore funding
options *

Convention center *

Visitor Center
relocation



Q U E S T I O N S ?

