

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
May 18, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert called the meeting of the Sister Cities Commission to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randi Buros
John McBee
Lourdes Montoya-Murphy
Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert
Karin Finney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Anthony Sanders

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susan Raymond
Irma Valdez

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

Hank Huisking

STAFF PRESENT:

Victoria Yarbrough

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Randi Buros made a motion to accept the agenda as written. Lourdes Montoya-Murphy seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING 3/16/2015

Lourdes Montoya-Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Karin Finney seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Susanne offered thanks to the members for their help and support during the student exchange.

She mentioned that the Diversity Commission has expressed an interest in attending this commission's meetings and in turn would like one of our members to attend theirs.

She cancelled the June meeting. The next meeting will be July 20th.

Susanne congratulated Randi on getting his Masters Degree in Education.

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS - Hank Huisking

Hank said the council is involved with budget meetings and work sessions right now.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria offered congratulations on a very successful exchange. —

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Irma Valdez was present and filled out an application to be a commission member. She is a kindergarten teacher at Huachuca Mountain Elementary School and is originally from Cananea.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Commission Vacancy - Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Irma Valdez is interested in becoming a member.

2. After Action Discussion of 2015 Student Exchange from Radebeul to Sierra Vista - Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne said the exchange was a great success. There were no complaints from the German students and they loved the activities that were planned for them. She thanked Hank for participating in the picnic. Susanne will mail thank you notes within the week. The commission members will put together a contract for the host families for next year. It will give them an overview of what is expected of the host families. The donation from Kiwanis of \$200.00 will pay for the insurance when we travel to Radebeul in October. Susanne would like Karin to be the female chaperone during that exchange. Karin and John will initiate a conversation with the Tombstone and Bisbee high schools in an effort to involve them in the exchange program. Victoria reported that about \$2,500.00 was spent during this exchange.

3. Treasurer's Report

Randi said the balance in the checking account right now is \$3,702.00. He opened a new account at the Navy Federal Credit Union since that institution does not charge a monthly checking account fee.

4. Cananea Outreach

Susanne said there was nothing to report on this item. There is an election cycle happening now in Cananea. The newly elected officials will be in office in September.

5. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates - Susan Raymond

Susan reported that there are 10 students currently in the club. They have plans to do some fund raising during the summer months. She said the students are enthusiastic about rejoining Sister Cities International and want to look for corporate sponsorship to pay for the annual fee. Victoria advised that the club cannot do this independent of the commission and city council.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oktoberfest - September 11 and 12, 2015 - Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

There was some general discussion about this fundraiser. Susanne said she will schedule a planning meeting to go over work shifts and other details sometime during the summer.

2. Discuss Commission Relationship with the Sister Cities Club and Responsibilities - Anthony Sanders

Anthony was not present, so this item was tabled until the next meeting.

3. Discuss Considering Membership in Sister Cities of Arizona - Anthony Sanders

Anthony was not present, so this item was tabled until the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

There were no announcements or requests.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson