

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
July 20, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert called the meeting of the Sister Cities Commission to order at 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randi Buros
John McBee
Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert
Karin Finney

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Anthony Sanders
Lourdes Montoya-Murphy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sigrid Limtiaco
Simone McFarland

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

Hank Huisking

STAFF PRESENT:

Victoria Yarbrough

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Randi Buros made a motion to amend the agenda by addressing New Business Item 1 after Call To The Public and then proceeding with the agenda as written. Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion to accept the amended agenda carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING 5/18/2015

Randi Buros made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Karin Finney seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Susanne welcomed Sigrid Limtiaco from the Cultural Diversity Commission.

She thanked Karin for her work on the exchange scheduled for October. An informational meeting for those students and parents interested in participating in the exchange to Radebeul will be held at the Mona Bishop Room on August 3rd from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Susanne has been in touch with Tombstone High School to see if they would be interested in starting a Sister Cities Club at their school and also if their students might be interested in participating in the exchange program.

Susanne has met the new German teacher at Buena High School. He seems very excited about becoming involved with the exchange program and the club.

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Hank Huisking

Hank encouraged the commission members to attend an Open Meeting Law training if they have not yet done so. Jill Adams, our city clerk, has one scheduled for July 23rd at 4 pm and again on August 6th at 4 pm. Both are held at city hall.

This year's Spotlight Breakfast is scheduled for August 11th at the Windemere Hotel. Chuck Potucek, the City Manager, outlines the state of the city during this annual event. The city's new brand will also be unveiled.

July 21st at 4 pm the council will vote on this year's budget.

DIRECOTR'S REPORT – Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria commented that the commission members have a lot of work ahead of them this fall.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Sigrid Limtiaco from the Cultural Diversity Commission was present. She said that her commission is responsible for putting on the Cultural Heritage Fair each year. This year 27 countries were represented. The CDC wants to reach out to the other city commissions and offer their help if it is needed, for example during Oktoberfest for this commission.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Economic Development Plan – Simone McFarland

Simone McFarland, the Economic Development Manager for the City of Sierra Vista, was present to explain the city's economic development strategy. She handed out booklets on the community overview, developable land and commercial property opportunities.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Susanne said she felt the group accomplished quite a bit at the special meeting last Friday. She has ordered 700 pounds of bratwurst for the event. There was discussion about contacting other food vendors. She suggested another meeting mid August might be beneficial. The work schedule still needs to be finalized.

2. Treasurer's Report – Randi Buros

Randi said the balance in the account is \$4,078.05. He has found that when looking for sponsorship or community grants a 501C3 affiliation is required. He will do some research into the possibility of the commission becoming a 501C3 and put it on a commission agenda for discussion after Oktoberfest.

3. Cananea Outreach

There was nothing to report on this subject.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Acceptance of New Member – Irma Valdez – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Randi Buros made a motion to recommend Irma Valdez to become a commission member. Karin Finney seconded the motion.

VOTE:

UNANIMOUS

The motion carried. Irma's appointment will be placed on the August 13th city council agenda.

3. Discuss Commission Relationship with the Sister Cities Club and Responsibilities – Anthony Sanders

Anthony was not present and this item was not discussed. It will be removed from next month's agenda.

4. Discuss Considering Membership in Sister Cities of Arizona – Anthony Sanders

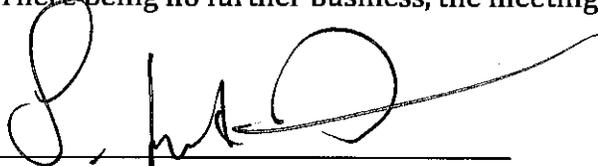
Anthony was not present and this item was not discussed. It will be removed from next month's agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Karin said she met with Emily Scherrer, who is the library administrator and is also in charge of the teen center. Karin would like one of our commission members to attend an upcoming Youth Commission Meeting to talk about the student exchange. Their next meeting is on the 18th of August.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Himstedt-Gilbert', written over a horizontal line.

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson