

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
December 14, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert called the meeting of the Sister Cities Commission to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert
Matthew Lentz
Randi Buros
John McBee
Lourdes Montoya-Murphy
Irma Valdez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Linde Mohr
Susan Raymond (arrived
later)

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

Hank Huisking

STAFF PRESENT:

Victoria Yarbrough

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Randi Buros made a motion to accept the agenda. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – November 16, 2015

Lourdes Montoya-Murphy made a motion to accept the agenda. Irma Valdez seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Susanne stated everyone, including the children from Cananea, Mexico are invited to the Christmas party, which takes place in the Mona Bishop Room, SVPL on Saturday from 1:30-

3:30 pm. Susanne reported the Arizona Sister Cities Organization extended an invitation to commission members wanting to participate in the next meeting on January 8, 2016, in Phoenix. She also said the German-American club donated \$ 500.00 to the Commission for participation and working together in the Diversity fair. Randi was asked to write a "Thank you" letter to the Club. Susanne thanked everyone for all the hard work that was put into the commission throughout the year.

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Hank Huisking

Hank thanked everyone for all the continuous work with the student exchange and raising money throughout the year. She stated she was quite surprised that the Economic Development Brochure from Sister Cities International was not translated into other languages. Hank contacted Sister Cities International in Washington, DC and the cost to translate the Document would be \$ 500.00.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria stated the donation boxes for "Crutches and Canes for disabled and blind children" in Cananea, Mexico have been put out at the Oscar Yrun Community Center and The Cove. Advertising will be done in order to make the Public aware of the program.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's Report and Discussion – Randi Buros

Nothing was spent. The account balance is currently \$ 6,861.51 and a check of \$ 190.00 was received for the student's insurance during the exchange to Germany.

2. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates – Susan Raymond

Susan Raymond was not present. Matthew reported that the kids voted on combining the German Club and the Sister Cities Club. Combining both Clubs will probably take place towards the end of the school year. He mentioned the children are all excited about the Christmas party. A brief discussion went on about the possibilities of starting a Spanish Club at Buena High School.

3. Discussion on fundraising ideas for Cananea Outreach – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne said, Victoria already mentioned Donation Boxes are out in two City office buildings. Some of the flyers were distributed in different locations. Susanne asked if

the commission members had any new thoughts for fundraising ideas they would like to share. Irma stated Huachuca Mountain Elementary school PTO donated two big bags of clothes and jackets. Irma inquired at some of the schools in Mexico to get ideas on some of the items needed. She stated a list of all supplies needed, will be distributed to the commission members. Victoria added that "Friends of the Library" may have Textbooks to donate.

4. Discussion on German Student Exchange in February 2016 – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne stated that there is still no concrete date for the upcoming student exchange due to the German students having to wait for approval from the state. Possible trip dates are February 14th – March 04th. Susanne discussed the dates with Humberto and so far the student trip to Mexico is planned for February 20th – February 27th. Ten host families will be needed for the remainder of the trip. Some of the trip ideas mentioned were Buffalo Soldier Museum, Kartchner Caverns, Tubac, Bisbee, Tombstone, Coronado Cave, a trail ride on Ft. Huachuca, and possibly a trip to Phoenix. In the event of planning a trip to Fort Huachuca, Victoria stressed the importance of starting the planning process as soon as possible, since Public Affairs will have to be notified right away. Susanne asked to send any ideas and suggestions to Monika in order to compile a list. John also suggested inviting Humberto to the next meeting. A brief discussion carried on.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tombstone High School Updates – Linde Mohr

Linde stated there are about fifteen students interested in the Sister Cities Club. Susanne mentioned going forward she would like for Linde to regularly participate in meetings if possible.

2. Discussion on Sister Cities International presentation – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne asked for everybody's thoughts on joining Sister Cities International and Sister Cities Arizona. Randi and Jon agreed that it may be beneficial to at least join Sister Cities Arizona. Hank asked the commission members to also look at the bigger picture and consider the benefits of joining Sister Cities International in regards of Economic Development. Susanne expressed her concern on how to pay for the membership fees. Hank responded by stating she doesn't believe the commission should have to pay for the membership and that it could possibly be City sponsored.

Susanne made a motion to recommend to City Council to include Sister Cities International dues in next year's budget. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

Susanne made a motion to pay for Sister Cities Arizona dues out of the commission budget. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

3. Discussion on SVUSD Board approach in regards to calendar change

Susanne stated the school board made a calendar change to the 2016/2017 school year, which doesn't include a fall break for students. She said this will vastly affect the student exchange because the children would miss more school days and planning a trip to Germany would be very difficult during that time.

Randi made a motion for Susanne to speak on behalf of the commission at the school board meeting on December 15, 2015, in regards to the potential effects of the calendar change to the student exchange. Lourdes seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

4. Vote on commission applications for new member Matthew Lentz and renewals for Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert and Randi Buros- Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne made a motion to accept Matthew's application. Randi seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

Lourdes made a motion to accept Susanne's and Randi's renewal applications. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Jon suggested having a special meeting for the student exchange. The date will be set at the next regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson