

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
January 11, 2016

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:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Matthew Lentz
Lauren Giamalis
Linde Mohr
Susan Raymond (arrived
later)

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

Hank Huisking

STAFF PRESENT:

Victoria Yarbrough

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Lourdes Montoya-Murphy made a motion to accept the agenda. Randi 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 is looking forward to working with all the commission members in the New Year and thanked everyone for their hard work in 2015.

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Hank Huisking

Hank reported the first council meeting of the New Year is on Thursday January 14, 2016. Randi, Susanne and Matthew stated they may be attending in order to get sworn in. Hank recently attended a state level Sister Cities meeting via Tele-Conference and gave a report on Sierra Vista. The state of Arizona currently has sixteen Cities that participate in the Sister Cities program. Hank said it was great to share ideas and get a closer look at what other cities are doing. She stated she would like for some of the commission members to join the next Sister Cities International meeting, which will take place on May 20 and May 21, 2016. A brief discussion carried on about the benefits and rewards of joining the Sister Cities International Organization.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria stated the reimbursement check was received for Matthew's plane ticket and the funds are available to be used for the upcoming exchange.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's Report and Discussion – Randi Buros

Nothing was spent. Last month the account balance was \$ 6,861.51 and a check of \$ 190.28 was received for the student's insurance during the exchange to Germany. The current account balance is \$ 7052.12.

2. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates – Matthew Lentz

Matthew reported the kids voted on removing the current president of the club due to him missing multiple meetings. There was a brief discussion about the students giving a presentation to the commission and city council. Susanne stated she would like to discuss giving students an incentive for completing extra assignments such as creating and giving presentations at the next meeting.

3. Tombstone High School Updates – Linde Mohr

Linde stated she currently has one student wanting to host during the student exchange. She mentioned the student would be able to take a school bus from Palominas or Hereford to Buena High School in the morning.

4. Discussion and vote on donation items to purchase for Cananea Outreach – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Irma discussed some of the items needed in Cananea. She stated heaters, school supplies, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items and technology supplies are needed most. A long exchange carried on about the difficulty and logistics of transporting donation items across the border. Purchasing heaters was briefly discussed; however, everyone was unclear on which type of heaters to purchase. Irma stated she will ask to see which kind of heater would be preferred. Susanne requested to get the donation flyers changed to add some of the other supplies needed in Cananea.

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

Susanne said a few more host families are still needed for the student exchange. She requested that all commissioners ask around to see if anyone may be interested. The additional host families are needed as soon as possible since Susanne still needs an opportunity to meet each of them prior to the student exchange. Susanne and Matthew created a preliminary itinerary for students to ensure appointments with different locations can be made in a timely manner. Victoria discussed some of the paperwork that needs to be completed in order for the students to gain access to Ft. Huachuca. Susanne stated the final dates for the exchange are February 14th through March 03rd. A brief discussion carried on about activity ideas for the students.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Vote on Commission application for new member Lauren Giamalis – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Lauren introduced herself and expressed her interest in the Commission. She said her son participated in the student exchange to Germany in October 2015 and had a wonderful experience. She would like to contribute in the future.

Randi made a motion to accept Lauren's application. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE:

UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

2. Annual Commission Report to City Council – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Victoria stated the date for the report is not set at this time but wanted to give everyone a heads up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson