

CITY OF SIERRA VISTA
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
February 08, 2016

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
Randi Buros
John McBee
Irma Valdez
Matthew Lentz
Lauren Giamalis

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lourdes Montoya-Murphy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Linde Mohr
Susan Raymond
Sigrid Lintiaco
Joseph Giamalis
Ximena Aponte

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

Hank Huisking

ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Amendment of Agenda Item 1 – Student presentation to Commission:
Matthew made a motion to move Item 1 to the beginning of the meeting. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

Randi made a motion to accept the agenda. Matthew seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – January 11, 2015

Randi made a motion to accept the minutes. Irma seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Susanne reported, thanks to City Council, the Sister Cities Commission is now a member of Sister Cities Arizona and Sister Cities International. She also stated that she would like to work closely with the Tourism Commission on planning some trips to Cananea in the future.

1. Amended Agenda Item: a. Student presentation to Commission

Joey and Ximena gave a presentation about the student exchange trip to Radebeul, Germany in October 2015. Some of the commission members gave the students suggestions on what to change or add in their presentation, prior to presenting to the school board and city council.

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Hank Huisking

Hank reported the Sister Cities Commission is now officially a member of Sister Cities International and Sister Cities Arizona. She informed the commission members of a few upcoming events. The Sister Cities State conference will take place May 21-22 in Fountain Hills and the next Arizona Sister Cities meeting is coming up as well. Hank said a trip to Cananea with the mayor is currently being planned. She stated that she will inform everybody once there is a definite date set.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria was not present.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Susanne went over the itinerary for the upcoming student exchange and confirmed all activities with the commission members. Last minute arrangements were discussed and finalized.

2. Treasurer's report and discussion – Randi Buros

Randi stated nothing was purchased. Susanne discussed the projected expenses for the student exchange and came up with roughly \$ 2,000 to be spent. She stated the number will include cost for hotel rooms, admission fees and a gift card for the SWAB Volunteers.

Randi made a motion to use but not exceed funds in the amount of \$ 2,000 for the student exchange. Jon seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

3. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates – Susan Raymond

Susan reported the students had their first meeting with the new club president Francisco. She stated they plan on having fundraisers once a month.

4. Tombstone High School Updates – Linde Mohr

Linde said her students went over the calendar and planned on taking the german students to different classrooms during the exchange.

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

Susanne stated she's been reaching out to a few different organizations to get more donation items. Lauren said she inquired about purchasing some heaters at Home Depot and was offered a discount. She also mentioned that one heater was donated by Home Depot and another one will be donated by her.

Matthew made a motion to purchase four additional heaters for Cananea in the amount of \$ 200. Jon seconded the motion

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on Commission participation at the Cultural Heritage Fair – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susan stated the commission is signed up for one table at the Cultural Heritage Fair. Sigrid Limtiaco discussed some of the activities, as well as how many vendors are participating in this year's fair. Susanne stated the option of having a food vendor table still needs to be discussed. A brief conversation took place, about commission participation at the Cultural Heritage Fair.

2. Discussion on offering an incentive for students creating presentations and presenting to City Council – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susan asked commission members what their thoughts were on giving an incentive to students presenting to city council, as an extra motivational factor. A brief discussion carried on about alternative options available such as scholarships or certificates. Hank stated the City of Sierra Vista would be able to give the students a certificate to the students.

3. Discussion/decision on Commission representation at a local Rotary club meeting

Matthew made a motion for Susanne to speak on behalf of the commission at a local Rotary club meeting. Randi seconded the motion.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS
The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Randi and Lauren thanked Susanne for all her hard work in regards to the student exchange. Hank reminded everyone that the Commission presentations are coming up at the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson