

**CITY OF SIERRA VISTA**  
**SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**  
**March 21, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert called the meeting of the Sister Cities Commission to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Irma Valdez  
Lauren Giamalis

OTHERS PRESENT:

Linde Mohr  
Susan Raymond

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

Hank Huisking

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA**

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

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS  
The motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING - February 08, 2015**

Matthew made a motion to accept the minutes. Lourdes seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS  
The motion carried.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Susanne thanked everyone for helping at the exchange. She stated the student presentation to the school board will take place on Tuesday, April 05, at 6 pm, at the Rothery Center.

## **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 stated this year was the smoothest exchange she's ever participated in. All the kids stated they've enjoyed the trip. Susanne is already in contact with teachers in Germany to start the planning and preparations for the next student exchange - fall 2016. A brief discussion carried on about the future exchange.

### **2. Treasurer's report and discussion – Randi Buros**

Randi reported the overall cost spent for the student exchange was roughly \$ 1,800. Susanne stated that the commission successfully stayed under the projected budget of \$ 2,000. The current account balance is \$ 5,385.77.

### **3. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates – Matthew Lentz**

Matthew mentioned that the Buena High School Sister Cities Club has merged with the German Club. Their first fundraiser will be at the Buena High School talent show on April 1.

### **4. Tombstone High School Updates – Linde Mohr**

Linde said due to a drop in enrollments at Tombstone High School she may be moving schools. She stated she would still like to help out with the commission in the future. Linde also mentioned that she has three to four students that are interested in the fall student exchange.

### **5. Cananea Outreach – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert**

Susanne reported that Irma received a donation of clothes from the Huachuca Mountain PTO. The clothes are, however, dirty and she would like to use some of the commission funds to get them washed.

Matthew made a motion to spend \$ 25 in order to wash the donated clothing items. Jon seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS  
The motion carried.

A discussion carried on about the different possibilities of reaching out to the public in order to encourage more donations. Hank stated it would be better if the commission had a story as to why the donations are being collected. The commissioners agreed on traveling to Cananea, Mexico and officially handing out all donated items on April 29, in connection to the Mexican Holiday "Day of the Kids".

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion/decision on commission participation at the Cultural Heritage Celebration – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert**

Susan stated a roster will be sent out in order for commissioners to sign up and staff the Sister City Commission table at the Cultural Heritage Celebration. She also asked if anybody would like to participate in the Parade of the Nations. Jon mentioned that it would be great if the commission could bake some cakes for the German/American Club in order for them to sell it at the Cultural Heritage Celebration.

### **2. Discussion/decision on establishing a commission historian – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert**

Susan asked if one of the commissioners would be willing to take on the role of becoming the commission's historian and file all the paperwork and news articles. Lourdes stated she would like to volunteer for the position.

### **3. Discussion/decision on Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert representing the commission at a Sunrise Rotary club meeting – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert**

Matthew made a motion for Susanne to speak on behalf of the commission at the next Sunrise Rotary club meeting. Jon seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** UNANIMOUS  
The motion carried.

### **4. Discussion on the commission establishing a 501(c)3 organization – Randi**

Randi handed out paperwork with information on obtaining a 501(c)3 for the commission. He asked everybody to read through the documents in order to further discuss options in a future meeting. A brief conversation carried on about fundraising and the benefits of having a 501(c) 3 for the commission.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS**

Hank stated, at the next work session city council will discuss which items will be reviewed by the citizens advisory commission. There was a consensus among city council members that all city commissions should be reviewed.

Susan Raymond announced that she will be retiring but she would be happy to help out with the commission and attend meetings in the future. Susanne thanked her for all her assistance in the past.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson