

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria had nothing to report.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Treasurer's report and discussion – Randi Buros

Randi Buros was not present. Victoria had the reimbursement check from the school district for the plane tickets separated from last meeting. Susanne asked her to please hold it for the commission as Randi Buros was not present to receive it.

2. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates – Matthew Lentz

Matthew said the club had one meeting since their return from Germany. He said they had a great time over there. He thinks they had a good group this year; the best group ever to travel with. He told the kids what needs to be done if anyone is interested in participating next year. There is a lot of interest, but it is difficult to get the kids to come to the meetings and put in the time that is needed for them to go to Germany. The kids expressed that they would like to do a fund raiser and movie night at school with pajamas, hot chocolate and popcorn with the Gay/Straight Alliance Club. Susanne said that Vinny's Fundraiser is coming up in February and they talked about that as well. Matthew reported that the club has over \$1,100 in the account and approximately 20 members. Of those 20 members, 10 are regulars.

3. Discussion on establishing a 501(c)(3) organization – Randi Buros

Susanne asked Victoria about an email regarding Hank taking the information to City Council. Victoria knows that Randi and Hank met with Nathan, the City Attorney. She thinks some confusion came up about what kind of 501(c)(3). By that she meant that the city used to operate its own 501(c)(3)'s and decided to stop doing so possibly due to the tax muddle it created. Randi and Hank may not have been clear when they met with Nathan and then when they talked to City Council on whom they wanted to operate the 501(c)(3), the Sister Cities Commission or the City for the Sister Cities Commission. There was a lot of confusion so she doesn't think that Hank or the Council were quite clear on the actual intent. Nathan had told Hank it had to go to City Council for approval, but it sounds like approval would only be needed if City Council was going to form and operate a 501(c)(3) for the commission, not if the commission will be operating the 501(c)(3). That all still needs to be sorted out. There was a question about the legality of the bank account, but Victoria said that the Finance Manager advised her to tell Susanne to open up the new account if they wanted to so she is sure everything is fine. John said that for a fee of \$35 the paperwork can be expedited.

4. Christmas Around the World event – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne verified that the commission voted to participate last meeting and said that she would like to get some ideas for how the commission is going to participate. She said there were not many sign ups and the hosting commission was hoping to get more booths displaying Christmas food and culture. Susanne asked about Mexico traditions and Loudres recommended a piñata with 5 cones and talked about the meaning. Susanne suggested a display for Cananea with piñatas and the description and meaning of the tradition. Irma said they could be easily made or purchased. For Germany, Susanne was considering displaying an advent wreath, typical nutcrackers and such. Susanne understands that the commission putting on the event hired food vendors from the Farmer's Market to sell food and then they invited everyone from the diversity fair to come and present their country's Christmas traditions. Susanne knows they asked the Huachuca Mountain choir to come and sing songs. She said there was some talk about horse drawn wagon rides or movies presented, but she doesn't know how much of it will actually happen. Susanne will try to work on the German side with the club. Irma talked about having dancers, but Susanne said we are only participants and it will probably be small this year. It will be December 10th from 3:00-7:00 pm. Susanne will get in touch with Loudres and Irma via email through Paris about the Cananea display.

5. Discussion of strategic plan suggestions to submit to City Council

Victoria does not recommend suggesting the Young Artist Showcase idea, the State Conference idea, or the 501(c)(3) idea because they are not strategic for the city, but for the commission instead and are already happening. She believes that we should suggest working closely with Cananea and making a connection with local businesses and the tourism commission. The other idea she recommends is getting an adult exchange going. Victoria said that those ideas will work if we make sure to word them in a way that makes it sound like we are moving the city forward in terms of developing relationships and in a way that shows there will be a benefit to the city in terms of culture and knowledge exchange. She said the 501(c)(3) idea may work as well if we can reword it to show that it will be of some benefit to the city. Victoria volunteered to word-smith those 3 ideas and bring them to the next meeting for the final decision. State conference will be the 1st weekend in October of 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

1. After-action report on Germany Student Exchange trip- Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne said that the trip went awesome and there were no major issues. It was exhausting, but great. She learned a lot and hopes to keep it up. She said teachers in Germany are talking about their financial situation and their belts being tightened so we don't know what is going to happen with that. Susanne is looking into helping Germany in that respect by talking to the chairman of their Sister Cities commission. She gets the impression that they don't know a lot about Sierra Vista; it's just something that they do. They seem to focus on the Ukraine over there. The chair is really interested in learning more. They are talking about a trip about

the same time as last year between February 13th and March 4th for 2.5 to 3 weeks again. Humberto and his wife were with the students in Germany and it was really nice. There was a 2 hour delay in Amsterdam which caused everyone to have to stay the night in Minneapolis. Susanne needs to talk to Randi about reimbursing tickets that she had to pay out of pocket in the amount of \$25. Randi also had to pay for a hotel in Phoenix out of pocket to wait for the delay. Randi can let the commission know how much it was later, but Victoria said the commission can go ahead and vote to reimburse both. John motioned to reimburse Susanne and Randi the costs of the delay. Matthew seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Matthew reported that his tire was slashed at the hotel, but he got it taken care of. Hurricane Matthew delayed the trip over a little bit. Susanne said overall it was a very nice trip and the teachers coming this year are very nice. There will be 16 German students coming here in February, 15 girls and 1 boy. Susanne asked that everyone start looking for host families. Irma volunteered to take a girl. Susanne said planning would start next month and Colonel Henschen will continue to do the briefing and everything like usual. He has a deep relationship with Radebeul. Susanne would like to help him next year with Oktoberfest. Irma expressed interest in going on the exchange trip next year with Matthew. There is a presentation due after Thanksgiving and the kids are to present for the commission and then City Council and the school board. Susanne asked if we could put an article in the Vistas. Victoria said yes. Loudres said that the Herald will do columns for the school for free. Susanne has been trying to contact someone there. Victoria recommended calling Derek Jordan and going through our PAO. A student that went was going to write an article, but lost his phone with all the notes and pictures on it. Matthew is working on getting it back, but it is difficult because it is a Samsung Galaxy 7 and the airlines were not allowing them due to their dangerous possible defects.

2. Discussion and voting on hosting the all-commission meeting in the 1st quarter of 2017

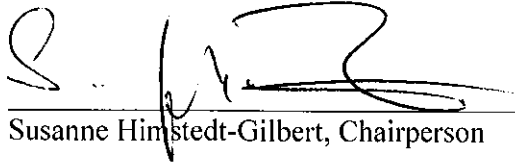
Susanne said the all commission meetings are fascinating. She has been to 3 of them and highly recommends attendance. The diversity commission started it out. The last one was at the landmark café for \$10 a plate. Commissions have been asked to volunteer to host the upcoming meetings. Mid-January is the next meeting and Susanne wanted to put the idea of hosting to the commission. What the commission would have to do is send out invites through Paris, set up dinner (possibly at the Landmark again) and get a count. John thinks it would be a great thing to do. Susanne would like to know if anyone wants to volunteer. It would probably be Tuesday, January 10th. John said he would help if the commission decides to do it. Irma motioned that the Sister Cities Commission offers to host the all-commission meeting. John seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Susanne will send an email. Susanne asked if there were any issues with keeping the next Sister Cities commission meeting on December 19th. There were no concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

There were no announcements or requests from the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hinstdedt-Gilbert', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Susanne Hinstdedt-Gilbert, Chairperson