

REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS – Gwen Calhoun

Gwen was not present. Mayor Mueller made sure that the commissioners were aware of the presentation to City Council coming up. He said he was starting to go through the budget and there were already some interesting things with the legislature. The AZ Board of Regents have the Governor's support to take city and county state shared income tax (illegally) including all future growth and income tax to help pay for some things for the Universities. This is indicative of the fact that the state is still looking for money. The city is also not getting money back from the highway user revenue funds that were taken by the state. The City's budget will therefore be even tighter this year, especially when you consider the passing of the minimum wage law that will also affect leave issues. He believes it is important for the commission to figure out the 501 (c)(3) to help. He talked about other ways the city is looking to cut back, including in transit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Victoria Yarbrough

Victoria said the commission's update to City Council is scheduled at 3pm in Council Chambers on April 18th about past activities and what the commission would like to focus on for the upcoming year.

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 said the commission has \$5,624 in the bank.

2. Buena Sister Cities Club Updates – Matthew Lentz

Matthew said there's a lot of money in the club, but it isn't showing in the account. Some of it was used for the farewell party. There is a fundraiser coming up at Chipotle next Tuesday the 28th if anyone wants to show their support by eating there. Overall the club had a great time with the exchange and they are all still texting each other.

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

Randi said the bylaws and charter and everything are at the attorney's office. He asked for information within 30 days, but just got back from out of town so he planned to call this coming Monday. Susanne and Randi updated Mayor Mueller on the commission's progress with the 501 (c)(3) planning. Victoria is wondering if the attorney has authorization to file when everything has been reviewed and Randi said yes, for the corporation and then we will have him help us file for tax-exempt status from the IRS. Victoria confirmed that the commission can open its bank account as soon as the corporation is set up.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on Young Author's Showcase – Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne said the deadline to turn in submissions is May 1st so she believes we are too late for this year. Susanne did contact the Arts and Humanities commission to see if we could work on it together next year. They were interested in it. Victoria suggested that the Young Author's Showcase could be worked into the Youth Arts Festival. The Arts and Humanities commission already does a partnership with Cochise College for that event. Victoria asked if there was a fee and Susanne said it was \$25 only if you want your artwork returned. Susanne said the submission could be a variety of different types of art. Each winner can receive \$1,000 cash from Sister Cities International. Mayor Mueller suggests that the two commissions work together and use the Youth Arts Festival to select a piece to send on to DC.

2. After action discussion on America Student Exchange Trip February/March, 2017 with host families– Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert

Susanne asked Hank Huisking to make some comments as a host family. Hank said everyone got along well and enjoyed their selves, but thought that there were too many activities. Her kids said they loved Brown Canyon Ranch and wanted more time at the Desert Museum. Susanne, John and Matthew mentioned that the German teachers chose to have less time at the museum in exchange for shopping time at the mall against the American chaperone's schedules and wishes. Hank said they also enjoyed San Carlos for the seashells. One of Hank's students gifted her a woodcut piece of art and she would like to donate it to the commission to hang in the City Council Chambers. Hank voiced her displeasure, as a parent, with multiple trips to Tucson. She also wanted to say she thinks horseback riding would be a wonderful idea. Victoria mentioned that parent waivers would be necessary and Susanne cautioned that it would be expensive, but that she would look into it for next year. Susanne has a write up from the teachers from Germany with suggestions. This year they did not enjoy the B-Troop presentation and said they would have preferred to skip the Gunfight Show, Trolley and Get Air Trampolines. Susanne said she plans to talk to the German teachers next year about sticking around until all of the students are picked up. One student wrote an article on their school website about the exchange and Susanne and Matthew heard that all of the students that participated still get together on the weekend. Victoria said that although there are still charges that haven't cleared yet, the costs so far total \$3,133.84. The commission started with \$6,566. Victoria said the city staff could call St. Andrew's Church to say that the city wanted to pay for Sister City's use of their room. Susanne wanted to know if the commission would like to make donations to other organizations that participated in the

exchange. Matthew made a motion to donate \$75 each to Brown Canyon and B-Troop. John seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. City staff will request the checks.

3. Discussion on applications for the Germany Student Exchange Trip October, 2017

Susanne said she's already been contacted by Frank, the teacher they are going to meet in Germany this year. He is excited that the program isn't dying. He said they are looking at coming to America next February again and Susanne discussed going to Germany the week before fall break with him. Susanne said she believes, in order to buy plane tickets when school is out, for the best prices, that the commission needs to get started picking the kids. She asked the commission if they wanted to use the application question template from last year so that the interviews could be started in April. Randi moved to use the same application and essay template with a deadline of April 18th and Matthew seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Susanne said they will probably start interviews Monday May 8th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS OF COMMISSIONERS

No one had an issue with April's meeting being on Easter Monday. Mayor Mueller made a presentation to thank Lourdes for volunteering her time on the commission and gave her a certificate, card and gift. Susanne expressed her thanks as well. Lourdes said it was an adventure and she wouldn't have left if she didn't have to. Victoria told her she can come back after a 1 year break if she wants to. Susanne announced that she received pictures from Umberto of the children with the clothing and wheelchair donations. John wanted to thank Bruce, the bus driver, for all of his help with the exchange. Susanne also thanked Victoria and the city staff for their help with the exchange.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Susanne Himstedt-Gilbert, Chairperson