

CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)
MILPITAS CITY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2013

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Vice Chair Serpa called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were: Commissioners Arbaugh, Grilli, Mateo, Serpa. Absent: Commissioners Hardin, Galvan. Alternate Commissioners present: Chen, Chang.
- Council Liaison Carmen Montano: Present
MHS Student Liaison Brenda Su: Present
MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa: Absent
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** Alternate Commissioner Chen was seated.
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Vice Chair Serpa led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Minutes Approval of** MOTION to approve the minutes of February 21, 2014
M / S: Arbaugh / Mateo Ayes: Arbaugh, Chen, Mateo, Serpa
- V. Agenda Approval of** MOTION to approve the agenda of March 28, 2014.
M / S: Chen / Arbaugh Ayes: Arbaugh, Chen, Mateo, Serpa
- VI. Announcements** Mayor Esteves thanked commissioners for their continued service with special gratitude to Student Liaison Brenda Su. He offered a suggestion to the SCC: consider economic development and other business factors as possible future exchange elements of sister city relationships. Mayor Esteves invited the commissioners and a guest to attend the Commissioners Recognition Luncheon on April 13, 2014 at Noon in the Community Center Auditorium.
- VII. Public Forum** None
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. Printed Materials**
The Commission reviewed a brochure used by the Library Commission and provided consensus to proceed with the presented format. Purpose is to have printed

information at City functions and available to the public. The piece is to include a brief history of the relationship with each sister city. Group discussion followed regarding the Purpose statement (mission statement) in its by-laws. Chair Grilli asked that the aspects of the mission statement be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Addition of a Sister City in China

Alternate Commissioner Chan discussed the economic opportunities available with achieving another sister city relationship in China. Group discussion followed regarding the knowledge of this expertise to facilitate relationships on an economic development level. Alternate Commissioner Chan proposed working through a business organization that targets interested cities. It was decided that Alternate Commissioners Nolan and Chan would attend April 8 Economic Development Commission meeting to determine its interest in supporting such relationships.

3. City of Taitung, Taiwan

Ms. Annie Tsai, Vice President of the Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce-Northern California (Chamber), along with members Teresa Liao and Lynn Chow, introduced the City of Taitung, Taiwan. Taitung is on the south east side of Taiwan, 42.3 square miles with a population of 109,000. It is famous for its tourism due to its natural resources and unique in that it consists of 12 tribes of Pacific Islanders. Taitung's main export is tropical fruit. It was noted that the Chamber is in contact with Taitung's mayor and regional governor for more information. Discussion followed with this information stated: Taitung's interests are in a student and cultural exchange; Milpitas community support not known; business aspects with Taitung may include medical and garment industries; a high-tech area or city would be a better fit for Milpitas; concern regarding economic development aspects and feasibility to develop such a relationship; from a cultural exchange perspective, both cities are culturally diverse. It was determined that Alternate Commissioners Chen and Chang would attend the April 8 Economic Development Commission meeting to introduce concept of facilitating sister city relationships with an economic development focus. Alternate Commissioners Chen will prepare written communication to Ms. Tsai with a request for more information.

IX. Old Business

1. Sister Cities International 2014 Conference

Vice Chair Serpa stated that aside from the location, the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, no new information is forthcoming at the time and requested this item remain listed under Future Agenda Items. She will continue to track this item for the Commission.

2. Use of Social Media for Sister City Relationships

Commissioner Arbaugh opened the discussion by noting that Tsukuba is close to completing its list and would like to start the new matched in April. Student Liaison Su noted that there are 15 students available at this time. She reported that high school students are not interested in communication with the younger students from

Figline Valdarno, but would be interested in communicating with students their age. Chair Grilli stated he will contact principals and teachers from elementary and middle schools to find teachers interested in facilitating the matches. Student Liaison Su noted that a flyer to gain interest would help with recruiting. Discussion followed regarding using a questionnaire format with email addresses to ‘register’ students with the “e-pal” project. Staff liaison will prepare drafts for review and approval via email, then print with delivery to the student liaison.

3. Tsukuba City, Japan

Commissioner Arbaugh noted that his report was discussed under the previous agenda item.

4. Dagupan City, Philippines

Commissioner Mateo noted there is no new information, but she has emailed her contact to determine if a student visit to Milpitas is planned. Staff liaison will email a City of Dagupan contact to Commissioner Mateo.

5. Huizhou Municipality, China

Chair Grilli noted there is no new information. He will be in contact with Huizhou and Milpitas High School representatives regarding the October student visit.

6. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Vice Chair Serpa asked that the previously requested congratulatory letter be placed on hold pending the outcome of a possibly newly-formed government. The cities of Figline Valdarno and Incisia have merged with each retaining its current mayor and names. Vice Chair Serpa discussed possible fundraising activities for student trips to sister cities. Also, Figline Valdarno is proposing to send five students. Ages are to be determined.

7. City Council Liaison Report

Council Member Montano stated she is please with the commission’s willingness to review its mission statement. She then reviewed recent items on the Council’s agenda.

8. School District Liaison Report – None

9. Future Agenda Items

- a. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
- b. Sister City Visit and Promotional Expenses / Printed Materials & Costs
- c. Sister Cities International 2014 Conference
- d. Fundraising for Student Visits to Sister Cities
- e. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships

- f. Additional Sister City in China
- g. Review Purpose / Mission Statement & Printed Material

10. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 25, 2013.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of January 24, 2013

M / S: Arbaugh / Mateo

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison