



Agenda

Sister Cities Commission

January 24, 2013
Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
7:00 PM

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Seating of Alternates**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Approval of Minutes: October 25, 2012**
- V. Approval of Agenda: January 24, 2013**
- VI. Announcements / Correspondence**
Items directly related to the Sister Cities Commission (SCC) and City of Milpitas business.
- VII. Public Forum**
Members of the audience are invited to address the commission in any subject not on tonight's agenda. Speakers must supply their name and address for the record. Commissioners cannot respond to issues brought forward, but may request that the matter be added to the agenda of a future meeting.
- VIII. New Business**
 - 1. Elections**
Background: Existing SCC bylaws state that a Chair and Vice Chair are to be selected annually at the first meeting of the year for a term of one year. The Chair is responsible for calling meetings to order and presiding over all sessions. Additionally, the Chair receives Commissioners' notices of being unable to attend a meeting. The Vice Chair assumes the Chair's duties in his / her absence. Review SCC bylaws at: ci.milpitas.ca.gov/_pdfs/commissions/scc/scc_bylaws.pdf.
 - 2. Global Milpitas, October 2014**
Background: The SCC started discussions of fundraising capabilities that lead to the developing concept of a citywide event that involved cultural groups, the school district, and corporations. The concept grew beyond the SCC's ability to implement, however remains an interest to SCC as it provides a major outlet for sister city activities.

Recommendation: Receive Vice Chair Serpa's report about event developments.

3. **Mathura City, India**

Background: Mr. Rohit Sharma requests consideration of this Mathura City as a Milpitas sister city. Mathura City is in the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is located approximately 50 km north of Agra, and 145 km south-east of Delhi. Mathura City is the administrative centre of Mathura District of Uttar Pradesh. During the ancient period, Mathura was an economic hub, located at the junction of important caravan routes. Today, it is a fast expanding city with over 2.5 million residents. Mathura City is one of the seven holy cities of India and the birthplace of Lord Krishna. A notable landmark is the Keshav Dev Hindu Temple was built in the Gupta Period of 320 to 550 CE on the site of Krishna's legendary birthplace. Mathura City does not yet have an airport, but is being considered for this expansion by the regional government.

Recommendation: Receive presentation from Mr. Sharma.

IX. **Old Business**

1. **Grants for Sister City Activities & SCI International Conference 2014**

Background: Vice Chair Serpa attend a Sister Cities International luncheon where she learned about the possibilities of grants from businesses that support sister city activities and the collaborative community planning process for the 2014 Sister Cities International Conference. She has asked the Commission to explore these opportunities.

Recommendation: Receive Vice Chair Serpa's report and discuss for future involvement.

2. **Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships**

Background: At the October 25 meeting, Commissioner Arbaugh reviewed his contact with Tsukuba staff in the hope of continuing this program with that city. Vice Chair Serpa reviewed the interest from Figline Valdarno in starting a student exchange. Also, the Student Liaison will provide a verbal report regarding contact between Milpitas High School and sister city students.

Recommendation: Receive report from Vice Chair Serpa, Commissioner Arbaugh and Student Liaison Su. Discuss next steps and / or explore new ideas.

4. **Sister City Commission Promotional Expenses**

Background: At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Commission has a spending limit of \$6,240. As reported at the October 25 meeting, expenses totaling \$1,767.74 were incurred to host the Dagupan and Huizhou students and adults for a total spending limit of \$4,472.26 remaining.

Recommendation: Review expenses and discuss as needed.

5. Tsukuba City, Japan

Background: Commissioner Arbaugh leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: Tsukuba staff will consider whether or not to continue the student e-pen pal relationships based on student's experience.

Milpitas and Tsukuba signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 1, 2009 for a five-year term, ending September 1, 2014.

Recommendation: Receive report from Lead Commissioner Arbaugh about possible student and/or adult visits and other exchanges as available.

6. Dagupan City, Philippines

Background: Commissioner Mateo leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: The State Department's travel advisory to the Philippines finds that an updated travel advisory does not include "Manila and surrounding areas" as was previously stated. This warning focuses specifically on southern regions of the Philippines. The State Department's warning against travel to the Philippines, dated June 14, 2012 can be viewed at:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5734.html. Also, based on information available at the time - especially the State Department's warning against travel to the Philippines that included "Manila and surrounding areas" - the SCC formally recommended to City Council that a student delegation not travel to the Philippines at its meeting of November 17, 2011. These minutes can be viewed at: <http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/pdfs/commissions/scc/2011/111711/minutes.pdf>.

Chair Grilli asked staff to obtain a legal opinion regarding sending Milpitas students to Dagupan under the auspices of its sister city relationship with Dagupan.

Milpitas and Dagupan signed an updated MOU in September 15, 2009 for a five-year term, ending September 15, 2013.

Recommendation: Receive staff report and any available updates from Lead Commissioner Mateo. Discuss ability to promote sending Milpitas students to Dagupan, based on City Attorney's opinion.

7. Huizhou Municipality, China

Background: Chair Grilli leads this sister city relationship. A delegation of Huizhou officials visited Milpitas on November 26. Staff conducted a flag raising in the Veterans Plaza, prepared a PowerPoint presentation with presenters from the Housing, Recreation and Engineering Divisions, and hosted a simple luncheon that was well received. Chair Grilli received the six delegation members:

- Ms. Hua Hong, Vice Chairman, Standing Committee of Huizhou People's Congress
- Mr. Ye Chuang, Director, Overseas Chinese and Foreign Affairs Committee and Standing Committee of Huizhou People's Congress

- Mr. Huang Shaosong, Deputy Director, Bureau of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs of Huizhou Municipality
- Mr. Li Lixin, Deputy Director and General Office of Standing Committee of Huizhou People's Congress
- Ms. Yang "Giselle" Chunlan, Interpreter and Bureau of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs of Huizhou Municipality

Milpitas and Huizhou signed an updated MOU on September 20, 2008 for a five-year term, ending September 20, 2013.

Recommendation: Receive report from Chair Grilli regarding the officials' delegation visit November 26.

8. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Background: Vice Chair Serpa leads this sister city relationship. Current developments include: Figline Valdarno's active interest in fundraising possibilities to support cultural and student exchanges, and the start-up of communications between Figline Valdarno and Milpitas students.

Milpitas and Figline Valdarno signed their first MOU on May 8, 2012 for a two-year term.

Recommendation: Receive report from Vice Chair Serpa about possible student and/or adult visits and other exchanges as available.

X. City Council Liaison Report

XI. School District Liaison Report

XII. Future Agenda Items

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
2. Grants for Sister Cities Activities
3. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships / Student Liaison
4. Sister City Commission Promotional Expenses

XIII. Adjournment

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E-mail: mogaz@ci.milpitas.ca.gov / Fax 408/586-3030 / Phone 408/586-3040

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