

Chair Serpa and Chair Peoples attended the August 6, 2013 meeting. Council Liaison Montano added that the EDC is working on a brochure that will support this topic.

2. Use of Social Media for Sister City Relationships (E-Pal Project)

Staff reported content of the subcommittee meeting on August 28, 2013. Commissioners Arbaugh, Vice Chair Serpa and Chair Grilli attended. The subcommittee provided content for a flyer “Foster World Peace” to be inserted into *The Union*, the high school newspaper. Chair Grilli reported on the E-Pal Project. He has received support from Principal Trisca Lee at Zanker and Principal Tony Frascone at Sinnott, however there is a delay due to a series of tests. Figline Valdarno indicates that it has about 90 students ready to go. Of these 12-year-olds, Zanker will take 35 and Sinnott the remainder. Chair Grilli has left a voice message for Leti Villa to explore linking the middle school-aged students. Staff asked about Tsukuba e-pals. Chair Grilli stated that initially he would like to see this effort kept at the high school level until we are ready to expand further into the middle school grades and ages. Regarding Dagupan, there has been no response. Staff will inquire about possible e-pal matches with the city administrator during the upcoming visit.

3. Tsukuba City, Japan

Commissioner Arbaugh noted that the only email he has been copied on regarding Tsukuba was the issue of the comfort women. He reported that Tsukuba appears to be content with Mayor Esteves response. The second item is to propose a successor to Staff Liaison Su, who is a senior this year. Commissioner Arbaugh met with the granddaughter of Lou Horza, Mikalya, who is 15 and a freshmen at the high school. She is interested in all things Japanese and would make an excellent contact. He further reported talking with Mikalya’s father, Stan Horza, who approved this activity. Commissioner Arbaugh asked if the Commission approved this idea and was met with consensus approval. He asked that staff contact Brenda and ask that both students connect and talk about the duties involved with being the Commission’s Student Liaison. He will also ask Stan Horza to contact staff.

4. Dagupan City, Philippines

Commissioner Mateo thanked the Staff Liaison for her contact with and detailed information for the Dagupan student and chaperone delegation. Staff reported that the US Embassy in Manila sent an email to confirm the list of students coming to Milpitas, to which she responded affirming the students. Commissioner Mateo reported that President Marlene Garibay of the Dagupan City Association is advised that the City seeks their help with Saturday night accommodation and Sunday breakfast before meeting their Milpitas home stay families. Chair Grilli reported on the search for home stays: he attended the PTSA meeting on September 11 and has been contacted by five families.

5. Huizhou Municipality, China

Chair Grilli reported that at the PTSA meeting the idea of visiting Huizhou in June of 2014 was discussed. A total of 20 participants is needed to achieve cost effectiveness. He talked with Johnson Shi, the Director of the Foreign and Overseas

Chinese Affairs Bureau of Huizhou Municipality. Mr. Shi was very receptive and willing to begin planning for this visit. The home stay report for the upcoming October 6 – 13 visit was discussed in the above item.

6. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Vice Chair Serpa stated that there is timing concern in a recent email from a teacher stating they needed to wait for approval not expected until June of 2014.

X. City Council Liaison Report:

The land previously held by the City's Redevelopment Agency can be sold to the school district so that a joint-use elementary school and park may be built in McCandless Drive.

XI. School District Liaison Report – None

XII. Future Agenda Items – Reviewed with these changes:

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
2. Sister City Visit and Promotional Expenses
3. Fundraising for Student Visits to Sister Cities
4. Addition of a Sister City in China
5. Coordination with Economic Development Commission
6. 60th Anniversary Update & Involvement

XIII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 7:56PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on October 24, 2013.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of September 26, 2013 at 7:05PM.

M / S: Serpa / Arbaugh

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison