

background check when necessary. Staff noted that chaperone criteria could be posted on the SCC webpage before planned visits for specific sister cities. Also, a link from the SCC webpage to the volunteer application should be in place soon. By consensus, the commissioners decided to use the Milpitas Volunteer Program for chaperone volunteers.

2.) HUIZHOU

The revised M.O.U. was approved by the City Council on 8/19/08. The M.O.U. was extended from two to five years. Chair Grilli sent an email to Huizhou, asking for the projected date of their visit to Milpitas in anticipation of spring break in April 2009. Huizhou is having some difficulty obtaining student visas. Staff mailed the M.O.U. copies signed by Mayor Esteves to Huizhou for signature by their Mayor.

3.) DAGUPAN

There was a visit planned for 10/7/08, however, the Dagupan contact, Farah Decano, noted that there had been delays in obtaining their visa approvals and they may need to move their visit to a City Council meeting date in November. Staff corresponded with Decano to inform her of the City Council meeting dates (11/4/08 and 11/18/08) and is waiting for a response. She is encouraging them to visit on November 18th rather than November 4th during the elections. The attendees are a women's government group from various areas of the Philippines. Chair Grilli is interested to know about their affiliation with the city of Dagupan – staff will follow-up with Decano and forward email information to Chair Grilli and Commissioner Mateo. This year Dagupan is not sending students. The Philippines have been listed as a “no travel” zone for U.S. students by the U.S. government.

4.) TSUKUBA

Vice Chair Dugdale was absent, however, she sent a thank you email to the commissioners for their help when the student delegation was here. She noted that the student exchange was a great success. Commissioner Arbaugh noted that he enjoyed working on the barbeque for the students. He purchased the bulk of food and supplies from Safeway and noted that Safeway would be willing to give Milpitas a \$50 gift certificate to be used when the city has visitors from abroad. However, they need a 6-8 week advanced notice for approval.

The commission again discussed that Tsukuba is now requesting a five-year student exchange plan rather than every year as a way of cost reduction. However, a five-year exchange plan is unacceptable at the middle school level since middle school is only two years. Three years of middle school students will miss out on the program. Chair Grilli suggested a possible need to redefine the relationship with Tsukuba if a different agreement with more frequent student exchanges could not be reached. M.U.S.D. Liaison Grilli suggested setting students up as pen pals, through email. Staff also noted that it is possible to move the sister cities relationship to Emeritus status if necessary per Sister Cities International Guidelines. In this scenario, Milpitas and Tsukuba remain sister cities, but are inactive until both cities decide to begin activities again or to dissolve the relationship. Chair Grilli suggested this as a good secondary option to redefining the relationship. He noted that changing and/or redefinition of status should be put on hold until Vice Chair Dugdale returns, as she is the main contact with Tsukuba. Commissioner Dugdale can explore what we can do to maintain relationship and make a counter proposal to Tsukuba. Some suggestions included student exchanges every other year.

5.) WESTERN EUROPEAN

Commissioner Arefi noted that Delft, the Netherlands, has declined because they already have six sister cities. He has continued emails with his contact in Holland and has not heard anything back for over a month. He also noted that Cookstown, Ireland has not responded to his inquiries.

Commissioner Arbaugh sent an email to the owner of a winery (Mr. Gunter Künstler) in H6chheim, Germany. He expects to hear something from him before the next commission meeting and will report at that time. The mayor of H6chheim is supposed to discuss a possible sister city relationship with Milpitas at their next City Council meeting.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

X. SCHOOL BOARD REPORT LIAISON REPORT

M.U.S.D. Liaison Grilli reported that school started Monday, August 25, 2008. 9600 students are enrolled. Typically additional students register after the Labor Day holiday. So far this year there are two more students enrolled than at the same time last year. Enrollment has shifted though, as Zanker has 80 more students than last year.

Additionally, the solar project is on schedule. Contractors made a lot of progress over the summer, and it should be completed by the deadline set in December.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchange
 - i. Huizhou City, China
 - ii. Dagupan City, PI
 - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan – Expiration of Agreement
- 2. Western European Sister City Research / Update

XII. ADJOURNMENT

No further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2008.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: Mateo/McCarter

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni Harris
Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Holly Cuciz
Sister Cities Liaison