

**CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MINUTES:** Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**DATE OF MEETING:** Thursday, September 23, 2010.  
**PLACE OF MEETING:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting room.

**I. ROLL** **Chair** Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.  
**Commissioners / Alternates Present:** Arbaugh, Arefi, Chen, Grilli, Hardin, Ortega.  
**Commissioners Absent:** Mateo, Serpa, Tran.  
**City Council Liaison Present:** Vice Mayor McHugh  
**MUSD Liaison Absent:** Alisantosa  
**Staff Present:** Stobbe, Clark

**II. ALTERNATES** Alternate Commissioner Hardin was seated.

**III. PLEDGE** Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. MINUTES** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2010  
M/S: Ortega / Arbaugh AYES: All

**V. AGENDA** **MOTION** to approve the Agenda for September 23,2010  
M/S Ortega / Chen AYES: All

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

Staff Liaison Stobbe relayed information about the upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> Sister Cities International Conference – Northern California Chapter that will be held in Lodi on October 23, 2010. Interested commissioners were encouraged to attend and advised to contact staff for reimbursement procedures.

Staff announced a new veterans monument honoring Filipino-Americans who served in WWII just unveiled in the Veterans Plaza in the City Hall complex. It was requested that the commission temporarily suspend its meeting to view the monument.

Motion to suspend meeting to honor monument: M/S Ortega / Arbaugh AYES: All

Motion to Reconvene meeting: M/S Arbaugh / Arefi AYES: All

**VII. PUBLIC FORUM:** No public present.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN

Commissioner Arbaugh received positive feedback from the list of suggested picture categories except for the suggestion of a group picture wearing suits and ties. Arbaugh suggested sending the list of photo types to involved groups or those participating to consider in review process. The list of topics include People of Milpitas and Tsukuba, parks and nature areas, cultural and special events, schools and students, and public, private and historic buildings. Alternate Commissioner Hardin mentioned that she has a trip scheduled to visit Tsukuba in December 2010, and she would be available to meet with Tsukuba representatives. Discussion followed with consensus that Alternate Commissioner Hardin

**MOTION** To approve participation in 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary photo exchange and accept the seven photo categories as follows: the people of Milpitas and Tsukuba, parks and nature areas, cultural and special events, schools and students, and public, private and historic buildings.

M/S: Arefi/Arbaugh

AYES:All

## IX. Old Business

### 1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA

Chair Grilli informed commissioners there are host families for each visiting exchange student and that the host families have been cleared through the police department. Huizhou exchange students will be Arriving on October 10 and leaving October 16 2010. Discussion followed regarding City-hosted tour options for visiting students and possible locations, such as the Milpitas City Hall and Library and the Great Mall.

### 2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

No report.

### 4. NAM-GU, INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA

Nothing new to report. It was noted that there are no visits or exchanges planned.

### 5. WESTERN EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH STATUS REPORT

Altopascio, Italy:

No report.

Aarhus, Denmark:

No response received as of this time.

Karlshamn Sweden:

Vice Chair Arefi is still in communications with Karlshamn thru email correspondence to communicate our interest in considering a future sister city relationship. Staff will follow up with Vice Chair Arefi and get together an informational packet introducing our City through electronic correspondence.

Darby England:

No report. It was noted that there have been no responses from Darby.

- 6. NON-VOTING STUDENT MEMBER** Revisit searching for a student member upon notice of future student delegation visit.

**X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Vice Mayor McHugh provided updates as noted below.

- Our new senior center is now open and a very large crowd showed up for the grand opening of the center. The center was delivered on time and under budget with savings used for improvements to the surrounding area at the center.
- There is a new monument honoring Fillipino-American war veterans. This monument was completed and installed in only two weeks and is now located in the veteran’s memorial located in the City Hall Plaza.
- Commissioners’ terms that are going to expire this month should contact the Mayor though the City Clerks Office if they are interested in continuing their service on the sister cities commission.
- At the City Council meeting of September 7 the Milpitas Food Pantry, one of the two applicants applying for the use of the former temporary senior center site, decided to withdrawal their request. There will be community meetings to see what might be an appropriate use for the former senior center.
- The financial report for the past year shows that City revenues were \$3.9M below budget and staff kept expenditures to \$4.3M below expected expenditures. The biggest short fall was from sales tax revenue, \$2M below budget with building permit and plan check fees at approximately \$800,000 below revenue projections. Our reserves are still \$14.7M that’s 22% of our general fund – an impressive amount for a city of Milpitas’ size.
- Another item on recent council agendas was a proposed ban on polystyrene (“Styrofoam”) food containers. Mayor Livengood at the last minute suggested a pilot recycling program for molded polystyrene and a consultant study of a ban and potential impacts. This passed on a 3-2 vote with Vice Mayor and council member Polanski dissenting. Vice Mayor McHugh’s position is that enough information exists showing that a recycling program that will not address the issues of the food containers that are used by restaurants. However, City staff was directed to research a pilot recycling program and obtain a consultant to help study the issues and impacts.

**X. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

No report.

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Sister City & Friendship Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Huizhou City, China
  - ii. Dagupan City, PI
  - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan
  - iv. Nam-gu, Incheon, South Korea
2. Western European Sister City Research / Update

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

No further business was discussed and Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 7:48pm.

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting.

**M/S:** Arefi/Arbaugh

**AYES:**All

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Clark  
Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe  
Acting Sister Cities Liaison