

**CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

MINUTES: Meeting of the Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
DATE OF MEETING: January 26, 2012
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, Galvan, Grilli, Serpa & Mateo
Commissioners Absent: Arefi, Hardin, Ortega & Tran.
City Council Liaison Present: Vice Mayor McHugh
Student Liaison Present: Brenda Su
MUSD Liaison présent: Alisantosa
Staff Present: Clark, Stobbe

II. ALTERNATES Alternate commissioner Galvan was seated.

III. PLEDGE The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

IV. MINUTES **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of November 17, 2011
M/S: Arbaugh/Serpa **AYES: All**

V. AGENDA **MOTION** to approve the Agenda for January 26, 2012.
M/S: Serpa/Mateo **AYES: All**

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. PUBLIC FORUM
No public present

NEW BUSINESS

1. SCC Budget & Gifts

Staff Liaison Stobbe explained that funds available to sister city expenses works as a spending limit from the Council Promotions Budget, a General Fund line item. There is no formal budget for sister cities expenses. However, SCC does have smaller amounts budgeted for its membership with Sister Cities International and supply expenses. Staff then reviewed potential gift items, unit costs, and minimum order amounts. The SCC reviewed items and provided direction. Staff will prepare a listing of expenses and remaining available funds and continue to research types of gifts for the next meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN

Commissioner Arbaugh met with Britta Hess from the Milpitas Camera Club to discuss the photo generation costs and lending of the display boards for the 15th anniversary photo exchange to be displayed during March in the Milpitas Public Library. In addition, they will need help from volunteers with cutting and mounting the photos. Student Liaison Su will announce the opportunity for the needed volunteers at the high school. Commissioner Arbaugh will coordinate dates reserved for volunteers at the library in February. The first day of display will be Friday, March 3 for the 80-photo display. Materials cost to the camera club is \$750.

SCC Student liaison Brenda Su reported that MHS students are ready to start an electronic pen pal student exchange. She has students filling out a quick questionnaire to match interested students from our sister cities.

Motion to approve the cost of mounting and preparation of the photos of the anniversary photos exchange for \$750 to the Milpitas Camera Club.

M/S

Grilli/Mateo

2. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA

Chair Grilli reported that there were no new developments. Grilli will contact his liaison for Huizhou about a possible future student delegation for 2012.

School District Liaison Alisantosa provided information about a student trip to Huizhou. Planning includes an extended tour leaving at the end of June. A week later a second group will meet the extended tour group and travel to Huizhou together to various cities. So far, five people including adults and students are interested in this trip. There will be fundraisers to raise money for the student trip.

3. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

Commissioner Mateo sent an email to Dagupan contacts to inquire if they would be interested in starting up a student pen pal relationship with the high school. They responded with interest more information on logistics will follow.

4. NAM-GU, INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA

Staff reported that a letter from Mayor Esteves to Mayor Kim Du-Kyeom was sent inquiring about status of this relationship. There is no response to date. Chair Grilli noted that if no response is received by the next meeting that the SCC should consider removing this city from the agenda.

5. FIGLINE VALDARNO, ITALY

Commissioner Serpa shared a holiday greeting from Figline Valdarno. Group discussion followed regarding ways to move forward with this new relationship. The SCC decided that staff would prepare a letter explaining a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Milpitas and Figline Valdarno. The letter will define the process and benefits of establishing an MOU. It will also outline alternative exchange methods that do not include travel. The letter will include both Lead Commissioner Serpa's and Chair Grill's signatures. Staff will forward the letter attached to an email to the Figline Valdarno's representative. Commissioner Serpa requested that the SCC explore the idea of hosting or providing event forum for the flag throwers of Figline Valdarno in the future.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

- The flag ordinance has been approved with slight changes regarding flying flags in the Veterans Plaza during sister cities visits.
- A council member is suing the city for records release violations and the city had to retain an attorney for this cause.
- The campaign reform registration has been rescinded a new ordinance was introduced this has two changes from prior one it has reduced maximum contribution from \$350 to \$250 per candidate per election.

X. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

- General obligation bonds survey the school district had support to go ahead with putting it for voters to approve.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City & Friendship Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Huizhou City, China
 - ii. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - iv. Nam-gu, Incheon, South Korea
 - v. Figline Valdarno, Italy
 - vi. Sister City Budgets & Gifts

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm. The next sister cities meeting is February 23, 2012.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: Arbaugh/Serpa

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Clark

Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe

Sister Cities Liaison