

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

**MINUTES:** Meeting of the Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**DATE OF MEETING:** February 23, 2012  
**PLACE OF MEETING:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd. Committee Meeting room

**I. ROLL** Vice Chair Arefi called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.  
**Commissioners/Alternates Present:** Arefi, Arbaugh, Galvan, Serpa, Mateo and Ortega.  
**Commissioners Absent:** Hardin, Tran and Grilli.  
**City Council Liaison Present:** Vice Mayor McHugh  
**Student Liaison Absent**  
**MUSD Liaison Absent**  
**Staff Present:** Clark, Stobbe

**II. ALTERNATES** No alternates seated.

**III. PLEDGE** Vice Chair Arefi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. MINUTES** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of January 26, 2011 with correction noted in the first item, line six, "February."  
**M/S: Arbaugh/Serpa** **AYES: All**

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

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The staff liaison announced the Commissioners' Recognition Event of Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in the City Hall rotunda to start at 6:00 p.m. for the welcome, 6:15 p.m. for the recognition program, and 7 p.m. for the dessert reception. The organizer of the event asks the commission for a list of its accomplishments in 2011, which the Commission briefly discussed.

**VII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Tess Santos representing the Arts Commission asked for opinions on a possible new public art for placement in front of City Hall. She asked commissioners to view the choices online and choose their favorite on the City's website at [www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/commissionspublic\\_art\\_survey.asp](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/commissionspublic_art_survey.asp).

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. ELECTIONS**

The Commission discussed postponing elections until March 22 meeting.

**MOTION:** Postpone elections until March meeting.

**M/S: Arbaugh / Serpa**

**AYES: All**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. SCC BUDGET & GIFTS**

The staff liaison reviewed the \$6,240 annual spending limit allotted to the Commission for expenses associated with sister city visits to Milpitas. There is \$2,773 left in this year's budget. Commissioners discussed pros and cons of specific items, expressed the need for austerity in gift giving and its desire to present a quality memento for adults. Staff noted she would place an order at the commission's direction.

**MOTION:** Spend up to \$500 to purchase pens with a box as a gift to visiting delegation adults.

**M/S: Arbaugh / Serpa**

**AYES: All**

Discussion followed regarding the Commission's ability to raise and maintain funds that would cover events and other costs associated with hosting visiting delegations. Staff noted that this question arose in 2005 with the outcome that commissioners, and other interested persons, would need to form a 501 (c) 3 organization. Past legal counsel did prepare the submittal paperwork, but the effort was dropped when it was determined that this organization would be a separate entity from the City. The Commission's inquiry is as follows:

- May the SCC raise funds for sister city activities with the funds maintained by the City?
- Can the SCC hold 501 (c) 3 status?
- Council Liaison request: contact County Counsel office to determine how Sister County entity raises and maintains funds.

**MOTION:** Direct staff to request that the City Attorney research the Commission's ability to raise funds as a non-profit group.

**M/S: Serpa / Arbaugh**

**AYES: All**

**2. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN**

Commissioner Arbaugh reviewed actions taken to produce and exhibit for the Milpitas - Tsukuba 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary photo exchange. It will consist of four quads of mounted panels. Volunteers completed the photo mountings and these are ready for display in the Milpitas Public Library's historic reading court starting at noon on Saturday, March 3, 2012. Commissioners complemented Commissioner Arbaugh on his efforts to bring the display together and his coordination with Tsukuba representatives. Staff received a request for a commendation of the Milpitas Camera Club, which staff will format and arrange for mayoral presentation at the March 20 City Council meeting.

### **3. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA**

No update provided. Discussion followed regarding concern about trip planning for a visit to Huizhou this summer. Concern is that the trip does not focus on elements to conduct a proper sister city visit. This concern to be discussed when the MUSD Liaison is present.

### **4. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES**

Commissioner Mateo reported the following Dagupan activities: student selection for the electronic pen pal project; student selection from an elite group to represent Dagupan schools while limiting the delegation to ten for a visit in October, and; a request that Maybelyn Fernandez, a member of the Dagupan Council, visit Milpitas in May. Topics requested for this visit are emergency preparedness, recycling programs, cultural arts program and the contracted preschool.

### **5. NAM-GU, INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA**

Staff reported that there were no responses from the letter sent to the Mayor of Nam-gu City.

**MOTION:** Recommend to Council that Nam-Gu be removed as friendship city and remove this item from the SCC agenda.

**M/S: Arbaugh / Mateo**

**AYES: All**

### **6. FIGLINE VALDARNO, ITALY**

Commissioner Serpa reported receiving confirmation from Mayor Riccardo Nocentini that he and Mr. Daniele Raspini will visit from May 4 – 10, 2012. They propose bringing with them a letter of interest outlining common areas of interest: 1) communication between high school students, and; 2) meetings between city officials to discuss best practices. They will also be taking part in the County of Santa Clara's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of its sister-county relationship with Florence. A dinner ball on May 5 will feature an entire evening of cultural performances and music. Ticket cost is \$150 per person.

## **IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Vice Mayor McHugh outlined these items:

- Update of the City budget that the council will revisit at their next meeting, including defunding of expanded library hours; this will eliminate some morning hours, but the library will continue to be open daily.
- There is an urgency item to amend the Open Government Ordinance to weigh security concerns against the release of public records and facility visual recordings.
- The issue of declaring a fiscal emergency to allow the Council to place a measure on the June ballot with an ability to pass with a "50 percent plus one" vote.
- A new express lane is coming to I-880 and SR-237 westbound.

## **X. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

None

**XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Sister City Relationships & Cultural Exchanges
  - i. Huizhou City, China
  - ii. Dagupan City, Philippines
  - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan
  - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
2. Sister City Gifts
3. Pre-planning Time Frames
4. Fundraising Possibilities

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Arefi adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The next sister cities meeting is March 22, 2012.

**MOTION** to adjourn the meeting.

**M/S: Arbaugh/Serpa**

**AYES: All**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Clark

Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe

Staff Liaison