

CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)
MILPITAS CITY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 2012

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were: Commissioners Arbaugh, Arefi, Grilli, Serpa. Absent were: Commissioners Hardin and Mateo. Alternate Commissioner present: Galvan.
- Council Liaison Pete McHugh Absent
MHS Student Liaison Brenda Su Present
MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa Absent
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe Present
- II. Alternates Seating of** Alternate Commissioner Galvan was seated.
- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Minutes Approval of** MOTION to approve the minutes of September 27, 2012.
M / S: Serpa / Arbaugh Ayes: All
- V. Agenda Approval of** MOTION to approve the agenda of October 24, 2012.
M / S: Serpa / Arefi Ayes: All
- VI. Announcements** Vice Chair Serpa announced that she attended a luncheon and the San Jose Capital Club regarding Sister Cities International (SCI) with President Mary Cane as keynote speaker and formally Maryland's Secretary of State. Tim Quigly, a local SCI board member, was also present. Vice Chair Serpa noted that grants are available from businesses for sister city activities; one is currently available from Kaiser Permanente. The item is requested to be added to a future agenda. No staff announcements.
- VII. Public Forum** None
- VIII. New Business**
- 1. Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) Presentation**
Betty Reutter, EPC commissioner, stated that her purpose in presenting before SCC tonight is to obtain cooperation with SCC to jointly attend any events that arise in the coming year. She continued with an outline of the information and programs SPC offers:

1. Alert SCC – An easy, free forum for phones, email, text messaging to inform of planned events or immediate threats and impending emergencies.
2. How to turn-off gas valves with a table-top demonstration.
3. Distributing information about community emergency response teams. There is a class starting on Saturday, October 27 that offers basic emergency preparedness

A question and answer period followed. Chair Grilli thanked Ms. Reutter for attending the meeting and stated that the SCC will look for ways to collaborate at events in the future.

IX. Old Business

1. Town Hall Meeting –Thursday, October 11, 7 – 9PM

Vice Chair Serpa stated that the SCC had a very nice display. She thanked staff for making the items available. Attendees had questions about how SCC operates. The Italian city drew the most attention. One person suggested a sister city be formed with a city in India. Contact information was taken and it was requested that staff contact this person.

2. Use of Social Media for Sister City Relationships

Commissioner Arbaugh referred to an email he received from Tsukuba staff. It stated that Tsukuba is going to focus on continuing the electronic pen pal program at a meeting in November. Tsukuba students will be asked to report on their impressions and connections with Milpitas students. Staff will know after this session if the program will be continued.

3. MCTV-26 Focus on City Commissions

Commissioner Arefi reported that he went to the recording session with Ms. Lax. She had noted to Commissioner Arefi that any information on the website need not be part of the taped report as she is seeking new information for the public. They recorded about 10 minutes. The interest is in what the SCC is doing and what are its upcoming projects. Items mentioned: student visits and cultural enrichment possibilities with the exchanges. Commissioner Arefi had stated that the SCC is looking forward to exchanges with Figline Valdarno and that its ad hoc committee had started a new idea that moved to a greater effort called Global Milpitas. This first session will air on November 2 on MCTV-26.

4. Sister City Promotional Expenses

The Staff Liaison reviewed the expense listing noting that \$1,303.61 was expended for the Dagupan / Huizhou student visit. This is \$711,36 less that was expended on the Huizhou student visit last year. Savings are due to opting to visit the Tech Museum of San Jose instead of San Francisco.

5. Tsukuba City, Japan

Commissioner Arbaugh noted that his report is the same as was reported under “Use of Social Media for Sister City Relationships.” He stated that Tsukuba has no interest in conducting a student exchange.

6. Dagupan City, Philippines

The Staff Liaison reviewed the visit including her gratefulness for coordination with Milpitas High School Vice Principal Linda Rodriguez. The students enjoyed a full week of classes and Spirit Week activities, along with a special day trip to the Tech Museum of San Jose, lunch at Mezcal Restaurant in downtown San Jose, and the Friday night Homecoming parade and football game. For Dagupan students, there were two special events: a dance presentation by the students and reception during a break of the October 16, 2012, Council Meeting and an extra night’s stay in Milpitas to attend the Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 20. The Staff Liaison thanked Commissioners Mateo and Galvan for their coordination with Ms. Nora Siapno, Vice Chair of the Dagupan Sister Cities Commission and the Dagupan Association based in San Jose. She noted that all visitors from the Philippines require a certificate verifying their stay in Milpitas. These are coordinated with the Staff Liaison and provided by the City Manager’s Office. Chair Grilli reported that the State Department’s Travel Warning about the Philippines was modified to exclude Manila and its surrounding areas. He sought an opinion of MHS Principal Ken Schlaff who responded that he didn’t have an issue sending MHS students to the Philippines in this case. In light of this, Chair Grilli asked that staff contact the City Attorney, obtain a legal opinion and place this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Huizhou Municipality, China

Chair Grilli noted that the student visit report is the same as for Dagupan. Staff noted that a delegation of Huizhou officials is due to visit Milpitas on November 26. Commissioner asked about flying the Chinese national flag. He also offered to take pictures of this event. Discussion followed regarding the history of Huizhou becoming a sister city.

8. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Vice Chair Serpa read her response to a letter from council member Danielle Raspini. There is request to begin an email pen pal relationship with the ages of 11 – 14 years old. This would require going to the junior high schools for participants. Discussion followed regarding unlikely participation of 11 – 12 year olds and the fact that a method to reach interested students already exists with MHS. By consensus, the Commission agreed to provide a counter proposal of including 13 – 18 year old youth to keep MHS involved. Vice Chair Serpa discussed the possibility of the flag wavers visiting Santa Clara County and Milpitas. The Italian Heritage Festival is the last week of August, and they may visit that time next year. Also, Global Milpitas is scheduled to occur in October 2014. The flag wavers would certainly be an excellent performance for that event. Also, council member Raspini asked if the SCC had any fundraising activities planned that would support sister city visits. He further stated that the joining of two cities (Figline Valdarno with a neighboring city) is still in flux.

The cities are still separate, but considering becoming one with new elections and council members.

9. City Council Liaison Report – None

10. School District Liaison Report – None

11. Future Agenda Items

- a. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
- b. Sister City Expenses
- c. Report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee
- d. Sister Cities International Website
- e. Town Hall Meeting, October 11, 2012
- f. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships
- g. Grants for Sister City Activities

12. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 8:17PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 15, 2012.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of October 25, 2012

M / S: Serpa / Arbaugh

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison