

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

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2013

I. Call to Order and Roll Call Vice Chair Serpa called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were: Commissioners Arbaugh, Mateo, Serpa. Absent were: Commissioners Arefi, Galvan, Grilli, and Hardin. Alternate Commissioner present: Chen.

Council Liaison Carmen Montano Absent
MHS Student Liaison Brenda Su Absent
MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa Absent
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe Present

II. Alternates Seating of Alternate Commissioner Chen was seated.

III. Allegiance Pledge of Vice Chair Serpa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes Approval of There was no motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2012 as a majority of the attending members were not present. Staff noted that there were no minutes from the November 15, 2012 meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

V. Agenda Approval of MOTION to approve the agenda of January 24, 2013.
M / S: Arbaugh / Mateo Ayes: All

VI. Announcements Staff distributed the revised Directory of Local Officials. Two corrections were noted which staff will forward to the City Clerk.

VII. Public Forum None

VIII. New Business

1. Elections

Commissioner Arbaugh nominated Chair Grilli to serve another year as SCC chair.
M / S: Arbaugh / Nolan Ayes: All

Commissioner Arbaugh nominated Vice Chair Serpa to serve another year as SCC vice chair.
M / S: Arbaugh / Mateo Ayes: All

2. Global Milpitas, 2014

Vice Chair Serpa reported that, due to budget issues created by the State's take over of redevelopment agencies, complete funding for this event needs to come from business and corporate donations. Such activities will be conducted at City management levels. This item may be removed from the agenda.

3. Mathura City, India

The representative was not present and this item is continued to the next meeting.

IX. Old Business

1. Grants for Sister City Activities & Sister Cities International Conference 2014

Vice Chair Serpa reported her findings that the grants are mostly to sister cities with relationships in Third World countries, which would exclude all but one of Milpitas' sister cities. In regards to the conference, Vice Chair Serpa noted that she will research information about the date in 2014 and approximate registration fee. She requested that the Staff Liaison research possible budget options to send the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission.

2. Use of Social Media for Sister City Relationships

Commissioner Arbaugh reported that Tsukuba representatives enjoyed the electronic pen pal program, which ended in November. They decided to keep the program going using the Commission's model and are working on recruiting a student contact. Discussion followed regarding organizing the e-pen pal correspondence and activities: 1) The Lead Commissioner should be included as "cc" on all correspondence of the Student Liaison with the sister city representative; 2) A teacher contact for the Milpitas Sister Cities International Club at the Milpitas High School; 3) a written protocol that lists expectations and outlines tasks. Commissioner Mateo noted that she will forward information of Dagupan contacts to the Student Liaison and needs feedback on actions taken. Vice Chair Serpa noted that she is in communication with the Student Liaison regarding a questionnaire for Figline Valdarno students. The questionnaire would include grade, age, interests and hobbies, any preference for age and gender of Milpitas e-pen pal and a photo of the student. For now, Figline Valdarno is interested in email exchange only of 14 – 18 year old students. Interest needs to be gauged among Milpitas students.

3. Sister City Commission Promotional Expenses

The Staff Liaison reviewed the expense listing noting \$1,767.74 in total expenses with a remainder of \$4,472.26 of the Commission's \$6,240.00 spending limit. Discussion followed regarding possible activities: 1) Production of a Milpitas sister cities brochure; 2) Support of the Milpitas Sister Cities International Club and Milpitas High School; 3) Purchase of premium items. It was determined that these ideas would be discussed at the next meeting.

4. Tsukuba City, Japan

Commissioner Arbaugh reported that no visits are planned. He noted that Mayor Ichihara was reelected for four years and requested that a letter of congratulations from Mayor Esteves to Mayor Ichihara be sent. The Staff Liaison will work on

this. Tsukuba has a Facebook account: www.facebook.com/Tsukubainfo and a website in both Japanese and English: www.tsukubainfo.jp. Commissioner Arbaugh also reported on an email exchange with the Japanese Consulate General. The contact was pleased to have connected with the Commission and expressed the desire to be included in Milpitas' relationship with Tsukuba. There is an offer to be involved if and when there is a student delegation visit.

5. Dagupan City, Philippines

Commissioner Mateo reported that there has been no correspondence since the October visit. The Staff Liaison presented the legal opinion from City Attorney Mike Ogaz. It is determined that the City of Milpitas shall not conduct nor promote student delegation visits from Milpitas to Dagupan as long as the State Department posts a travel warning to Americans regarding travel to the Philippines. Commissioner Mateo requested that this information be discussed further at the next meeting. Discussion followed regarding the Host Family Exchange Student Application and the need to update the form to include a list for any allergies. The Staff Liaison will research the form on the website and report back at the next meeting.

6. Huizhou Municipality, China

Commissioner Arbaugh noted that he received an email from Gabrielle Yang, Chief Section Member of Huizhou's Foreign Affairs Section and the delegation's interpreter during the November visit. She offered her thanks and gratitude for the flag raising.

7. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Vice Chair Serpa conveyed the excitement and willingness of Figline Valdarno representatives to arrange students in the email / e-pen pal exchange. In addition, there is the desire to conduct fundraising to provide for the exchange of five students within two years. Discussion followed regarding fundraising history and mechanisms. Vice Chair Serpa noted that it would be a special event to have the flag wavers come to Milpitas as well.

8. City Council Liaison Report – None

9. School District Liaison Report – None

10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
- b. Inquiry regarding Mathura City, India
- c. Sister City Visit and Promotional Expenses
- d. Sister Cities International 2014 Conference
- e. Fundraising for Student Visits to Sister Cities
- f. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships

11. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 8:24PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 28, 2013.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of January 24, 2013

M / S: Arbaugh / Mateo

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison