

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

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
May 23, 2013

I. Call to Order and Roll Call Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Commissioners present: Arbaugh, Grilli, Hardin, Mateo. Commissioners absent: Arefi, Galvan, Serpa. Alternate Commissioners present: Chang, Chen.

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

II. Alternates Seating of Alternate Commissioner Chen was seated.

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

IV. Minutes Approval of MOTION to approve the minutes of April 25, 2013.
M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi Ayes: All

V. Agenda Approval of MOTION to approve the agenda of May 23, 2013.
M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi Ayes: All

VI. Announcements: None

VII. Public Forum: None

VIII. New Business

1. Inquiry from Milpitas Executive Lions Club for Host Families

Marie Pham, Chair for International Exchange Students and Hosting Facilitator for this Milpitas service organization visited the SCC meeting to present an annual foreign exchange program. She seeks interest from Milpitas families to host two students per home in August. Students are college-age and will attend San Jose State University full-time. A stipend of \$54 per day is offered to hosts. Primary reason for visit is to learn to communicate in English in the manner of Americans. The first group, from Europe, visits for two weeks and the second group, from Japan, will visit for 25 days. Discussion followed regarding possible contacts to place students.

2. Potential Support of Economic Development Aspects for Sister City Relationships

Chair Grilli provided a report of his attendance at the May 13 Economic Development Commission (EDC). He gave a history of the SCC and a prior stance in regards to pursuing economic development aspects, explained a recent change in this interest, and asked for a response if the EDC would work with the SCC to facilitate this aspect of sister city relationships. The discussion included the EDC working with the SCC to identify the value of business and commerce facets of a sister city relationship. This would occur when reviewing a potential new sister city as well as evaluating economic development interests with established relationships. The EDC agreed that they were interested in participating in this manner. It was noted that adding this task would require a change to EDC by-laws. A tentative procedure was set for work between the two commissions: after a business interest was identified, and a sister city relationship or change to an existing Memorandum of Understanding was approved by City Council, City staff would then proceed with research and negotiations regarding how the City can facilitate the foreign business interest in Milpitas.

3. Consider Starting SCC Meetings at 6PM

Chair Grilli called for discussion on this item. It was reviewed that the monthly Thursday schedule would not change and the SCC may still cancel meetings as needed. A consensus was taken.

MOTION to recommend a change in meeting start time from 7PM to 6PM to the Milpitas City Council.

M / S: Arbaugh / Mateo Ayes: All

Staff noted that the June meeting is still set to start at 7PM. The item can be placed on the June 18 City Council agenda. Should the change be approved, then the SCC's June 27 meeting can begin at 6PM. Commissioners will be notified of this process.

IX. Old Business

1. Printed Materials

Staff distributed a handout of the written content for a brochure. She reviewed the draft noting that intent of the introductory paragraph is to invite participation with the SCC. The remaining text outlines the four sister cities and focus of these relationships. Discussion followed regarding sending a draft brochure for review to sister city representatives to confirm use of photos and to review the description of their city. At the same time, staff will seek further comments from Commissioners.

2. City of Taitung, Taiwan

Alternate Commissioner Chen reported on his email communication with Ms. Annie Tsai, Vice President of the Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce-

Northern California (TACC). After a presentation at the March 28 SCC meeting, he followed-up with an inquiry about Taitung's goals for a sister city relationship. Ms. Tsai responded earlier this week that the timing does not work for Taitung and it cannot pursue a sister city relationship with Milpitas. She further stated that the TACC would continue to research Taiwan cities for proposal to Milpitas. Alternate Commissioner Chen responded that the cultural exchange aspect is important, but to also consider cities that are open to ties including economic development.

3. Use of Social Media for Sister City Relationships

Staff provided a brief overview noting that Tsukuba representatives received 14 Milpitas High School (MHS) student contacts from Student Liaison Brenda Su and that Chair Grilli received interest from middle school vice principals and teachers regarding linking students with Figline Valdarno. Student Liaison Su reported that the 14 MHS students were linked with both a high school aged student and a younger student. She asked if this will continue or will there be students assigned from the middle schools. There are 16 younger students that should be linked with a younger Milpitas student. Chair Grilli responded that he does not expect to receive referrals to these students by the end of the school year. In regards to Figline Valdarno, Chair Grilli reported that he talked with the principal at Sinnott Elementary has communicated directly with the coordinator in Figline Valdarno. This principal was going to try to begin linking students by the end of the school year, but this is somewhat uncertain. Student Liaison Su noted that more MHS students are taking interest in the "e-pal" program. Commissioner Arbaugh stated he would be in contact with Tsukuba to update the situation on how communications are going between the assigned students. Regarding multiple matching of Tsukuba students to Milpitas MHS students, decision is to carry this through the summer and work for middle school matches in September. Chair Grilli stated that both principals at Russell and Ranchi Middle Schools are enthusiastic about the program, but it is just now too late in the school year to respond to the SCC's request for matching students. Commissioner Mateo asked about contact with Dagupan. Student Liaison Su reported that she has not heard from these contacts in months.

4. Tsukuba City, Japan

Commissioner Arbaugh noted that the update is covered in the social media item.

5. Dagupan City, Philippines

Commissioner Mateo reported that elections are completed. Mayor-elect is the current Vice Mayor Belen Fernandez, whose mayoral term begins July 1. It's expected that the mayor's staff will turnover. Commissioner Mateo will contact current Dagupan staff and ask if there is information to reach Mayor-elect Fernandez and her staff. Staff noted that she will draft a letter from Mayor Esteves to Mayor Lim offering well wishes for a health concern. Commissioner Mateo noted that Mayor Lim's son was elected as Vice Mayor. She is uncertain if Dagupan will send a student delegation this year and advised waiting until after July 1 to request a decision on a student visit to Milpitas.

6. Huizhou Municipality, China

Chair Grilli noted that there is nothing new to report. A delegation of officials will be sent in September and students in October.

7. Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy

Chair Grilli noted there are no new developments to report. The SCC then reviewed a draft form “Visiting Student Information” which would be given to the visiting city representative. Chair Grilli suggested providing a question asking if there is any other concern that host families should know.

X. City Council Liaison Report – None

XI. School District Liaison Report – None

XII. Future Agenda Items – Reviewed with these changes:

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
2. Sister City Visit and Promotional Expenses
3. Sister Cities International 2014 Conference
4. Fundraising for Student Visits to Sister Cities
5. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships
6. Review of Printed Material Development
7. Coordination with Economic Development Commission

XIII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 7:45PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 23, 2013.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting of June 27, 2013

M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison