

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

Minutes: Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, August 23, 2007
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Rm.

I. Roll Vice Chair Arthur called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arefi, Arthur, Chen, McCarter, Ortega & Wan
Commissioners/Alternates Absent: Dugdale, Grilli, & Mateo
City Council Liaison absent: Vice Mayor Livengood
MUSD Liaison absent: Montano
Staff present: Cuciz

II. Alternates Alternate Commissioner Chen was seated.

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

IV. Minutes **MOTION to approve the Minutes of July 26, 2007.**

M/S: Arefi/Ortega Ayes: All

V. Agenda **MOTION to approve the August 23, 2007 agenda.**

M/S: Arefi/McCarter Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

Vice Chair Arthur introduced new alternate 2 Commissioner Nolan Chen.
Commissioner Wan will now move from Alternate 1 to a regular voting member seat.
Commissioner Ortega will now move from Alternate 2 to the Alternate 1 seat.

VII. Citizen's Forum

None attending.

VIII. Old Business

1. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Item continued until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 27, 2007.

2. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILLIPINES: SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Item continued until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 27, 2007.

3. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Vice Chair Arthur noted that the visit from Tsukuba to Milpitas was a success. She also showed a video to the commissioners of the interview that she conducted with two Milpitas students who visited Tsukuba.

4. WESTERN EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH

Commissioner Arefi had no report.

5. CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The commissioners discussed possible attendance and noted that they would contact staff before August 31st if they planned on attending the annual Norcal Sister Cities International Conference on October 20, 2007 in Pacifica, California

6. STUDENT PARTICIPATION IDEAS

The commissioners noted that the number of students participating in visits has declined. Over the past two years, there have not been any students that visited Huizhou or Dagupan. Vice Chair Arthur will attend Back to School Night to talk about the Sister Cities program. Commissioner McCarter suggested speaking with the instructor who just started teaching a Chinese mandarin language class. Commissioner Wan noted that he had spoken with the Chinese teacher about talking to students in her class. Arthur noted that currently the Philippines are listed as a dangerous place to visit. Commissioner Ortega would like to come up with new ideas and ways to generate student participation. She stated that there is no information to distribute that shows the benefits of participation. She also noted that many students would like to participate but their families do not have the budget for travel. There was a consensus that travel costs are a major issue. The possibility of fundraising was mentioned. Arthur noted that prior fundraisers have not worked very well and that more funds were spent to prepare for fundraisers and follow regulations, although this could be discussed further. Commissioner Arefi noted that it would help if some funds were available to ease the burden for families and encourage them to participate. He suggested obtaining information about successful sister cities to find out what can be done better to introduce the program. He also believes the most efficient advocates are the teachers, and maybe fundraising could be an incentive for teachers to help pay for their trip. The commission would like to hear ideas from MUSD Liaison Montano. Also, the County Sister City program has run many activities through fundraising such as raffles and concerts and a commissioner could follow-up with them. Commissioner Wan noted that he attended a successful Sister City fundraising event in Cupertino within the last two years – he would like to have a large fundraising event in Milpitas with performers to help attract people. Wan mentioned considering Taiwan as a sister city - Arthur noted that this is possible, but would likely reduce the number of visitors as there is already the sister city in China. Arefi also noted that traveling there has been hindered by visa problems more than anything else.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

X. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

No report.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
 - a. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - b. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - c. Huizhou City, China
2. European Sister City Research
3. Student Participation Ideas

XII. ADJOURNMENT

No further business was discussed and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on September 27, 2007.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: McCarter/Arefi Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary