

**CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MINUTES**

MINUTES: Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, July 24, 2008
PLACE OF MEETING: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Room

- I. ROLL** Vice Chair Dugdale called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arbaugh, Chen, Dugdale, Ortega, Mateo, and McCarter
Commissioners Absent: Arefi and Grilli
City Council Liaison Present: Vice Mayor Livengood
MUSD Liaison Absent: M. Grilli
Staff present: Cuciz, Currie
- II. ALTERNATES** Alternate Commissioners Arbaugh and Chen were seated.
- III. PLEDGE** Vice Chair Dugdale led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. MINUTES** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of June 26, 2008.
M/S: Arbaugh/Ortega AYES: All
- V. AGENDA** **MOTION** to approve the July 24, 2008 agenda.
M/S: Mateo/Arbaugh AYES: All
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE**
Holly Cuciz announced that she is the new Sister Cities Commission staff liaison and there will be a new recording secretary.
- VII. PUBLIC FORUM:** No members from the public were present at the meeting.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

1.) REVIEW 2009 MEETING CALENDAR

MOTION to cancel the November and December 2009 meetings.

M/S: McCarter/Mateo Ayes: All

IX. OLD BUSINESS

2.) NEW COMMISSION LIAISON: CONSIDERATION OF ADDING A NON-VOTING MEMBER

Staff suggested the use of the Milpitas Volunteer Program (MVP) to reach out to the public for possible volunteer chaperones. The commissioners agreed that this would be a good option and they could discuss it further at their next meeting when Chair Grilli is present. Commissioner Mateo suggested that the form be linked from the Sister Cities Commission page for easy access. Vice Mayor Livengood added that the form should be edited to add Sister Cities Commission under Areas of Interest. Chair Grilli was the one who brought this topic to the agenda and since he was not present, Vice Chair Dugdale suggested moving this item to the next month's agenda to which the entire Commission agreed.

3.) HUIZHOU Staff has made contact from our Chinese counterpart regarding the Memorandum of Understanding. The MOU will be presented at the August 19, 2008 Council meeting for consideration and approval.

4.) DAGUPAN Commissioner Mateo reported that the City (through Cindy Maxwell) mailed two letters to Dagupan – a) an invitation; and b) a request to the U.S. Embassy to advance the interviews for visas for eight people in order to approve their visas in time for the October 7, 2008 Milpitas visit. She also inquired about e-governance to which staff will follow-up.

5.) TSUKUBA Vice Chair Dugdale reviewed the itinerary for two students and a teacher visiting Milpitas from Tsukuba next week. Vice Chair Dugdale has arranged with Eliren Pasion of the IS Department, for a taping of a student interview on August 6th at the Milpitas Television Channel 26 studio in City Hall. A barbeque gathering is scheduled for the exchange students and host families on the evening of August 6th at the Higuera Adobe and Vice Chair Dugdale reminded everyone that all Commissioners, City Council members and MUSD Board Members are invited. Commissioner Arbaugh volunteered to assist with the barbeque. Commissioner Mateo mentioned that August 7th is Milpitas Night Out, and suggested that since Arcadia Street is one of the participants in this national event, it would be a good experience for the exchange students and the teacher to be a part of the celebration.

The Commission discussed Tsukuba's MOU proposal. Vice Chair Dugdale noted that due to the economy and hardships for host families Tsukuba wants to change the number of visits to every five years. Staff interjected that Tsukuba also wants to reduce the number of students (from eight to five). Vice Mayor Livengood said that one visit in every five years for both countries seems very low and should be discussed further. Vice Chair Dugdale suggested to put the number of visits on the Draft MOU and Vice Mayor Livengood suggested that the commission should not rush to agree to any finalized proposal of Tsukuba, rather to continue discussions with them. Commissioner Arbaugh recommended visits to Tsukuba every other year, with Tsukuba visiting Milpitas on alternate years. Vice Chair Dugdale will contact Tsukuba's Sister Cities Commissioner and will report to the Commission. Commissioner McCarter believed that the absence of a City dignitary visiting Japan could have possibly been an issue as well. Vice Mayor Livengood suggested looking at adding Commissioner McCarter's idea to the MOU.

6.) WESTERN EUROPEAN Commissioner Arbaugh reported that he had heard from Mr. Gunter Künstler (owner of a winery in H6chheim, near Frankfurt). The idea of having a Sister City

relationship between the City of Milpitas and a Western European City will be presented to H6ochheim's City Council when they reconvene in August. Mr. K6unstler will then contact Commissioner Arbaugh to provide an update.

- 7.) **TAIWAN** Commissioner McCarter asked the Commission if they could handle another Sister City. Vice Mayor Livengood's reply was to wait for Tsukuba, Japan's decision regarding the MOU Amendment before venturing out on researching the feasibility of a Taiwan Sister City. He also noted that the entire Council and some members of the community have been interested in having a Western European Sister City for a very long time. All Commissioners agreed.

X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

XI. SCHOOL BOARD REPORT LIAISON REPORT

Not in attendance.

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. New Commission Liaison
2. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchange
 - i. Huizhou City, China – Expiration of Agreement
 - ii. Dagupan City, PI
 - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan – Expiration of Agreement
3. Western European Sister City Research / Update

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

No further business was discussed and Vice Chair Dugdale adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM until the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 25, 2008.

MOTION to adjourn.

M/S: Mateo/Arbaugh

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Sister Cities Liaison