

AGENDA

Sister Cities Commission

Thursday, October 22, 2009
Milpitas City Hall, Committee Conference Room
455 E. Calaveras Blvd.
7:00 PM

- I. Roll Call**
- II. Seating of Alternates**
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Approval of Minutes: September 24, 2009**
- V. Approval of Agenda**
- VI. Announcements/Correspondence**
- VII. Public Forum**

Members of the audience are invited to address the Commission on any subject not on tonight's agenda. Speakers must supply their name and address for the record. Commissioners cannot respond to issues brought forward, but may request that the matter be placed on the agenda of a future meeting.

VIII. Old Business

1. NON-VOTING STUDENT MEMBER

Background: In order to generate greater student interest and participation in sister cities activities, the commission made a recommendation to the City Council to amend the bylaws to add a non-voting student member on the commission. This recommendation was approved by the City Council on September 15, 2009.

- Jenny Shen, a Youth Advisory Commission member and Milpitas High School student, attended the Sister Cities Commission meeting in August and stated that she would be interested in serving in a non-voting position. Staff informed Jenny that if the recommendation to amend the bylaws were approved by the City Council, she would then need to submit an application for the Mayor's review and approval to serve on the commission.

Recommendation: Receive status update.

2. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA: STATUS REPORT ON SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Background:

Lead Commissioner: Chair Grilli

- Milpitas and Huizhou signed an updated MOU in September 2008 for a five-year term.
- Continue discussions regarding possible student exchanges between Milpitas and Huizhou.

Recommendation: Receive verbal report from Lead Commissioner Grilli.

3. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES: STATUS REPORT ON SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP

Background:

Lead Commissioner: Mateo

- Milpitas and Dagupan signed an updated MOU on September 15, 2009, for a five-year term.
- During their visit, a Dagupan City Council member indicated their interest in a possible student exchange in 2010. They also extended an invitation to visit Dagupan in December 2009 and/or April 2010.

Recommendation: Receive verbal report from Lead Commissioner Mateo.

4. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN: STATUS REPORT ON SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Background:

Lead Commissioners: Arbaugh & Tran.

- The Sister Cities Commission recommended a 5-year renewal of the MOU. This recommendation was approved by the City Council on August 18, 2009.

Recommendation: Receive verbal report from Lead Commissioners Arbaugh and Tran.

5. NAM-GU CITY, INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA: STATUS REPORT ON FRIENDSHIP CITY RELATIONSHIP

Background:

Lead Commissioner: Chen

- A government delegation from Nam-gu visited Milpitas on July 28, 2009. A Signing Ceremony was conducted and the Mayors of both cities signed an open-ended Friendship Agreement.
- Mr. David Chang, the Co-Chairman of the Korean-American Federation of Southwest States (located in Santa Clara) is the local contact for Nam-gu.

Recommendation: Receive verbal report from Lead Commissioner Chen.

6. WESTERN EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH STATUS REPORT

Background:

Lead Commissioners: Arefi, Arbaugh & Serpa.

- Commissioner Serpa is working on a possible sister city relationship with Empoli, Italy. Her contact from the Province of Florence will be visiting Empoli and distributing information about Milpitas.
- At the July 2009 commission meeting, Commissioner Arefi asked staff to send informational packets to Cookstown, Northern Ireland, Angers, France and Meppen, Germany. He noted that both Milpitas and Meppen share common interests in technology and a similar population. To date no reply has been received. (Lead Commissioner Arefi)
- Vice Chair Arbaugh requested a discussion about Derby, England. He made contact with John Forkin, Director of Marketing Derby. In May 2009, the commission requested that staff send an informational packet to Derby, which was sent in early June. To date no reply has been received. (Lead Commissioner Arbaugh)
- On March 17, 2009, the City Council approved the commission's request to pursue a possible sister city relationship with Hochheim, Germany. A letter of interest was mailed from Mayor Livengood to the Mayor of Hochheim in early April 2009. To date no reply has been received. (Lead Commissioner Arbaugh)
- A representative from Newry, Northern Ireland, sent an email request for information about Milpitas. Staff mailed an information packet to Newry in early April 2009. To date no reply has been received. (Lead Commissioner Arefi)
- Vice Mayor McHugh and Alternate Commissioner Serpa are researching sister city opportunities in the Province of Florence, Italy.
- Commissioners Arefi, Arbaugh and Serpa are continuing research on the potential for other western European sister cities.

Recommendation: Receive update from Lead Commissioners Arefi, Arbaugh and Serpa.

CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

IX. SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON REPORT

X. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Sister City & Friendship Relationships/Cultural Exchanges:
 - i. Huizhou City, China
 - ii. Dagupan City, Philippines
 - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan
 - iv. Nam-gu City, Incheon, South Korea
2. Western European Sister City Research

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and the City operations are open to the people's review.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Sister Cities Commission after initial distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office at Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas during normal business hours.

For more information on your rights under the Open Government Ordinance or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact the City Attorney's office at Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, CA 95035
E-mail: mogaz@ci.milpitas.ca.gov / Fax 408/586-3030 / Phone 408/586-3040

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In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, individuals requiring accommodation for this Meeting should notify the Sister Cities Commission Staff Liaison 48 hours prior to the meeting at (408) 586-2600, TDD (408) 586-2611.