

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

- MINUTES:** Meeting of the Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
- DATE OF MEETING:** September 22, 2011
- PLACE OF MEETING:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Room 7/8 Community Center
- I. ROLL**
Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Galvan, Grilli, Hardin, Serpa, Tran & Mateo.
Commissioners Absent: Arefi, Arbaugh, Quejado & Ortega.
City Council Liaison present: Vice Mayor McHugh
MUSD Liaison présent: Alisantosa
Staff Present: Clark, Stobbe
- II. ALTERNATES** Alternate commissioners Hardin & Galvan were seated.
- III. PLEDGE** There was no flag present in meeting room.
- IV. MINUTES** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of June 23,2011
M/S: Serpa/Tran AYES: All
- V. AGENDA** **MOTION** to approve the Agenda for September 22, 2011.
M/S: Serpa/Tran AYES: All
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
Staff introduced guest and local photographer Kseniya Bulavko.
- VII. PUBLIC FORUM**
None
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS**
- 1. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN**
Chair Grilli reviewed the Anniversary photo exchange presentation sent to Tsukba: Commissioner Arbaugh coordinated the effort for the photo exchange project and worked with Kseniya Bulavko who presented a slide show to the commission. Bulavko produced over 50 photos representing Milpitas. The Commission complemented Ms. Bulavko on her work and thanked her for compiling the photos into a comprehensive presentation. Chair Grilli noted that Commissioner Arbaugh expects to receive photos from Tsukuba in October.
- 2. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA**
Chair Grilli spoke about the upcoming student delegation visit between October 2nd –8th that will include Spirit Week events at Milpitas High School and the Friday night Homecoming Game. Chair Grilli and other adults will chaperone a field trip to San Francisco they with Huizhou and Milpitas delegation and students.
- 3. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES**
Commissioner Mateo reported a successful reception for delegation visit on August 31. A ceremonial Key to the City was presented to each delegation member and City staff presented interesting information

about City development projects. Commissioner Mateo thanked staff Clark and Stobbe for coordinating the event. Discussion followed regarding advanced planning for future official delegation visits. Chair Grilli asked if there is a way to convey that reasonable lead-time is needed to prepare for visits. Council Liaison McHugh responded that this is a delicate situation that perhaps may be discussed between the lead coordinators for each city. Staff Stobbe added that letters were signed by Mayor Esteves to thank restaurants in Seasons Marketplace for donating refreshments.

Discussion followed regarding the types of gifts the City presents to visiting delegations. Staff noted that each Sister City has a fiscal year budget of \$2,600. It was decided to add this item to the next agenda.

The discussion then turned to review of Mayor Lim's letter dated August 11, 2011, and Project Brief and Methodology regarding future student exchange visits. Chair Grilli provided the following report: As part of his research for the proposal regarding the Sister Cities' relationship between Dagupan and Milpitas, he contacted Principal Schlaff at Milpitas High School. The outcome is that Principal Schlaff, after discussing the requests and suggestions by Mayor Lim, was supportive of continuing a student exchange program with students from Dagupan as has been done in the past with Dagupan and other Milpitas Sister Cities. Principal Schlaff stated that the best time for the visit to Milpitas by student delegations would be Spirit Week, which is always in October. A visit by a student delegation from any other time of the year would not be possible due to testing.

All delegation visits to the High School campus would be limited to one week (five days) and occur during Spirit Week (first or second week in October). Further, the delegations from our Sister Cities would have to alternate between the cities so that only one of our Sister Cities would be able to send a delegation each year.

Although the commission is addressing the issue separately, Chair Grilli stated that he spoke briefly with Principal Schlaff about the US State Department's travel warning as it relates to the Philippines. Principal Schlaff, who is well informed about the warning and events occurring subsequent to the issuance of the warning, expressed serious concern with sending his students to the Philippines. It is my understanding that Principal Schlaff has final authority on whether a student delegation would be sent to the Philippines facilitated by MUSD in cooperation with the city.

Chair Grilli, Commissioner Mateo and Liaison Stobbe met with the city attorney regarding Mayor Lim's requests on September 13. In large part, the meeting was to address the question of liability to the City of Milpitas if the City facilitates sending students to the Philippines in light of the US State Department's travel advisory. Mr Ogaz expressed concern with sending students in light of the travel advisory. He asked that staff request a clarification from the State Department. Staff is in the process of requesting such clarification.

During the Sister Cities meeting on September 22, there was discussion as to whether the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Milpitas and Dagupan needed to be modified to allow for a student exchange. The conclusion of the commission was that no such modification was needed. The language of the existing MOU includes a student exchange as part of the relationship pursuits.

Staff is asked to attempt to have a clarification from the State Department for the next meeting. Consensus was that when the Commission has such clarification to consider, or an indication from the State Department that no such clarification will be forthcoming, the commission will move forward.

4. NAM-GU, INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA

Commissioner Tran reported sending an email to Commissioner Chang with no response regarding status of this relationship. She requested that staff send official email from City. Leslie will send the email and report-back at the next meeting.

5. WESTERN EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH STATUS REPORT:

Province of Florence, Italy: Commissioner Serpa reported that she leaves Monday for Italy She has secured an appointment with the Mayor of Empoli who seems very interested in discussing a relationship with the City of Empoli Milpitas. Commissioner Serpa stated she is expecting a productive visit. Commissioner Serpa travels with two City of Milpitas Proclamations: 1) one specific to Empoli, and 2) a general version to the Province in Florence. She then reviewed the possibility of involvement with local schools for a student relationship with a city in Italy.

Karlshamn, Sweden: Nothing new from Karlshamn.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Vice Mayor McHugh reported that the Council adopted a new campaign fund raising policy adjusted for Inflation. Also, there will be a registration requirement for campaign consultants. He noted that there should be a good faith effort to disclose any campaign contribution received in the past twelve months at Council meetings.

X. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Liaison Alisantosa reported that API scores crossed 900 mark at Sinnott and Curtner, Milpitas High School was approximately 880 and scores are higher overall, which makes Milpitas schools more desirable. He also stated that he is recruiting host families for student delegation to Huizhou.

XI. 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, Incheon, South Korea
 - v. Ceremonial flags ordinance
 - vi. Discuss new gift items for future presentation to visiting delegations.
2. Western European Sister City Research / Update

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm next sister cities meeting will be held October 27, 2011.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: Serpa/Mateo

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Clark

Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe

Sister Cities Liaison