

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

MINUTES: Meeting of the Sister Cities Commission (SCC)

DATE OF MEETING: November 17, 2011

PLACE OF MEETING: Milpitas Community Center meeting room 7/8

I. ROLL Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.
Commissioners/Alternates Present: Arbaugh, Galvan, Grilli, Serpa
Commissioners Absent: Arefi, Hardin, Mateo ,Ortega & Tran.
City Council Liaison absent: Vice Mayor McHugh
Student Liaison Present: Brenda Su
MUSD Liaison présent: Alisantosa
Staff Present: Clark, Stobbe

II. ALTERNATES Alternate commissioner Galvan was seated.

III. PLEDGE No flag available.

IV. MINUTES **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of October 27, 2011
M/S: Serpa/Arbaugh **AYES: All**

V. AGENDA **MOTION** to approve the Agenda for November 17, 2011.
M/S: Serpa/Arbaugh **AYES: All**

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
None

VII. PUBLIC FORUM
No public present

NEW BUSINESS

1. SCC Budget & Gifts

Staff stated that she did not have time since the last meeting to complete the requested research. By consensus, the Commission agreed to carry this item to the January meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. TSUKUBA CITY, JAPAN

Commissioner Dana Arbaugh is coordinating the 15-year anniversary photo exchange. Milpitas received Tsukuba's photos in early November. The Commission decided that the photos would be displayed at the Milpitas Public Library in the historic reading court in February 2012. It was determined that more people would be able to see the photo displays. Commissioner Arbaugh is working with the Milpitas Camera Club to use its display panels. Publicity will be citywide and use KMLP-15, the City website, news release to *The Milpitas Post*, and presenting the slide shows at a council meeting.

MOTION

M/S: Serpa/Arbaugh

AYES: All

To approve this outreach promoting the Milpitas / Tsukuba 15th Anniversary and photo display at the Milpitas Public Library.

2. HUIZHOU CITY, CHINA

Chair Grilli reported that there were no new developments. Grilli will contact his liaison for Huizhou about a possible future student delegation for 2012.

3. DAGUPAN CITY, PHILIPPINES

Chair Grilli reported commissioner Mateo informed him that there is no new contact from Dagupan. Chair Grilli updated the Commission on latest development with Dagupan's proposal of expanding student delegations to include reciprocal visits. It was noted that the Commission previously concerns about recommending sponsoring a Milpitas student delegation visit to Dagupan, per a State Department travel warning, at the last meeting.

Staff Liaison Stobbe introduced Deputy City Attorney Bronwen Lacey. Ms. Lacey noted that it was requested that her office provide an opinion on liability to the City if it sponsors student delegations to this Sister City. Since there is a travel warning issued by State Department regarding traveling to the Philippines, one way to reduce liability is to have parents sign a waiver knowing there is a risk and that they cannot file a lawsuit against the city. There are still some liability issues regardless.

Chair Grilli stated that all student delegation trips would need approval of the Milpitas Unified School Board. Ultimately, the decision to send a student delegation is up to the school board, which is based upon a recommendation from the Milpitas High School principal. Additionally, the Commission may also make a recommendation. Chair Grilli asked for discussion about the need to modify or change the current MOU with Dagupan to include cultural and student exchanges. Discussion followed and it was noted that paragraph two states this relationship involves student and cultural exchanges.

Chair would like to see some other form of communication between students other than those involving travel, such as Skype and or email contact, facilitated through teachers or groups at the high school level.

MOTION

M/S: Serpa/Arbaugh

AYES: All

To not recommend that a Milpitas student delegation to travel to the Philippines based on the following information

- Travel Warning from the State Department
- Information provided by the City Attorney’s Office

4. NAM-GU, INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA

No new responses from Nam-Gu. Staff Liaison Stobbe to will prepare a letter from Mayor Esteves to Mayor Kim Du-Kyeom inquiring about status of this relationship.

5. WESTERN EUROPEAN SISTER CITY RESEARCH STATUS REPORT

Province of Florence, Italy:

Commissioner Serpa is currently working with staff liaison to establish proper procedure to get to a MOU for a sister city relationship with the town of Figline Valdarno, Italy. Staff recommended starting with a letter of intent from Figline Valdarno to show that they desire a relationship with our city.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report

X. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT

MUSD Liaison reported there has been a survey conducted for the GO (General Obligation Bond) and that the school board is waiting to hear the results.

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. Figline Valdarno, Italy
 - vi. Sister City Budgets and Gifts

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Grilli adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm next sister cities meeting is January 26, 2012.

MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: Serpa/Arbaugh

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Clark

Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe

Sister Cities Liaison