



Agenda ***Sister Cities Commission***

February 28, 2013
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: January 24, 2013 and October 25, 2012**
- V. Approval of Agenda: February 28, 2013**
- VI. Announcements / Correspondence**
Items directly related to the Sister Cities Commission (SCC) and City of Milpitas business.
- VII. Public Forum**
Members of the audience are invited to address the commission in 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 added to the agenda of a future meeting.
- VIII. New Business**
 - 1. Mathura City, India**

Background: Mr. Rohit Sharma requests consideration of this Mathura City as a Milpitas sister city. Mathura City is in the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is located approximately 50 km north of Agra, and 145 km south-east of Delhi. Mathura City is the administrative centre of Mathura District of Uttar Pradesh. During the ancient period, Mathura was an economic hub, located at the junction of important caravan routes. Today, it is a fast expanding city with over 2.5 million residents. Mathura City is one of the seven holy cities of India and the birthplace of Lord Krishna. A notable landmark is the Keshav Dev Hindu Temple was built in the Gupta Period of 320 to 550 CE on the site of Krishna's legendary birthplace. Mathura City does not yet have an airport, but is being considered for this expansion by the regional government.

Recommendation: Receive presentation from Mr. Sharma and refer to Commission documents *Focus Areas & Criteria to Establish Sister City Relationships* and *Request for a Sister City Application Form*.

IX. Old Business

1. Sister City Visit and Promotional Expenses

Background: At the beginning of this fiscal year, the Commission has a spending limit of \$6,240. As reported at the January 24 meeting, expenses totaling \$1,767.74 were incurred to host the Dagupan and Huizhou students and adults for a total spending limit of \$4,472.26 remaining. The Commission then discussed possible activities: 1) Production of a Milpitas sister cities brochure; 2) Support of the Milpitas Sister Cities International Club and Milpitas High School; 3) Purchase of premium items.

Recommendation: Review expenses and discuss new ideas.

2. Sister Cities International 2014 Conference

Background: Vice Chair Serpa is researching the date and approximate cost and the Staff Liaison will present budgeting scenarios.

Recommendation: Receive reports from the Vice Chair and Staff Liaison.

3. Fundraising for Student Visits to Sister Cities

Background: Figline Valdarno requested a fundraising effort to conduct a student exchange of five students. The Commission expressed interest in this exploring this concept other possible student exchanges with sister cities.

Recommendation: Discuss next steps.

4. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships

Background: At the January 24 meeting, Commissioner Arbaugh reviewed his contact with Tsukuba staff in the hope of continuing this program with that city. Vice Chair Serpa reviewed the interest from Figline Valdarno in starting a student exchange. Also, the Student Liaison will provide a verbal report regarding contact between Milpitas High School and sister city students.

Recommendation: Receive report from Vice Chair Serpa, Commissioner Arbaugh and Student Liaison Su. Discuss next steps and / or explore new ideas.

5. Tsukuba City, Japan

Background: Commissioner Arbaugh leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: Tsukuba staff decided it will continue the e-pen pal relationships with Milpitas High School Students.

Milpitas and Tsukuba signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on September 1, 2009 for a five-year term, ending September 1, 2014.

Recommendation: Receive report from Lead Commissioner Arbaugh about possible student and/or adult visits and other exchanges as available.

6. **Dagupan City, Philippines**

Background: Commissioner Mateo leads this sister city relationship. Current developments: The State Department's travel advisory to the Philippines finds that an updated travel advisory does not include "Manila and surrounding areas" as was previously stated. This warning focuses specifically on southern regions of the Philippines. The State Department's warning against travel to the Philippines, dated June 14, 2012 can be viewed at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5734.html. Also, based on information available at the time - especially the State Department's warning against travel to the Philippines that included "Manila and surrounding areas" - the SCC formally recommended to City Council that a student delegation not travel to the Philippines at its meeting of November 17, 2011. These minutes can be viewed at: <http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/pdfs/commissions/scc/2011/111711/minutes.pdf>. Chair Grilli asked staff to obtain a legal opinion regarding sending Milpitas students to Dagupan under the auspices of its sister city relationship with Dagupan, which was reported at the January 24 meeting. Commissioner Mateo asked to continue this discussion at this meeting.

Milpitas and Dagupan signed an updated MOU in September 15, 2009 for a five-year term, ending September 15, 2013.

Recommendation: Receive staff report and any available updates from Lead Commissioner Mateo.

7. **Huizhou Municipality, China**

Background: Chair Grilli leads this sister city relationship. There are no new developments at this time.

Milpitas and Huizhou signed an updated MOU on September 20, 2008 for a five-year term, ending September 20, 2013.

Recommendation: Receive report from Chair Grilli.

8. **Comune de Figline Valdarno, Italy**

Background: Vice Chair Serpa leads this sister city relationship. Current developments include: Figline Valdarno's active interest in fundraising possibilities to support cultural and student exchanges, and the start-up of communications between Figline Valdarno and Milpitas students.

Milpitas and Figline Valdarno signed their first MOU on May 8, 2012 for a two-year term.

Recommendation: Receive report from Vice Chair Serpa about possible student and/or adult visits and other exchanges as available.

X. **City Council Liaison Report**

XI. School District Liaison Report

XII. Future Agenda Items

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
 - iv. Figline Valdarno, Italy
2. Inquiry regarding Mathura City, India
3. Sister City Visit and Promotional Expenses
4. Sister Cities International 2014 Conference
5. Fundraising for Student Visits to Sister Cities
6. Use of Social Media for Sister Cities Relationships

XIII. Adjournment

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