

CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)
MILPITAS CITY HALL 4th Floor CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES
February 26, 2015

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Commissioners present: Arbaugh, Arefi, Chen, Grilli, Serpa. Commissioner absent: Mateo. Alternate Commissioner present: Chang, P. Alternate Commissioner absent: Chang, T.

Council Liaison Grilli: Absent
MHS Student Liaison Mikayla Horyza: Present
MUSD Liaison Gunawan Alisantosa: Absent
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present

- II. Alternates Seating of** No Alternate Commissioners were seated.

- III. Allegiance Pledge of** Not conducted.

- IV. Minutes** MOTION to approve the minutes of January 22, 2015
M / S: Arbaugh / Serpa Ayes: All

- V. Agenda** MOTION to approve the agenda of February 26, 2015.
M / S: Arbaugh / Arefi Ayes: All

- VI. Announcements:** None.

- VII. Public Forum:** None.

VIII. New Business

1. Funding & Promotions Subcommittee

Commissioner Arefi reported on combined research of four cities: Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Santa Clara. He noted that have a sister city in Japan and provided an overview of each city's approach to supporting sister cities. Sunnyvale has recently established a non-profit association. Santa Clara handles sister city businesses related to city adoption through their Cultural Resources Commission and has a non-profit association established that does all of its fundraising. The City of Sunnyvale gives \$5,000 to the association every year. The association raised up to \$50,000 per year. The association has 150 members that pay a \$15 annual membership; volunteers organize the events. Also, they use students to assist for community service credit. The annual events are: 1) a tea social (\$25 per person / \$200 for table of 10) with

a raffle of gift baskets, champagne sales that average \$5,000 from this event; 2) Potluck with a program, tickets sold (unknown cost), wine sold by the glass with \$3 - \$4,000 earned from this event; 3) Street Dance (unknown entrance fee), with \$5 beer and wine, music entertainment, (average earnings not stated); 4) Chicken BBQ with raffle for gift baskets, average \$4 - \$5,000 from this event; 5) Sponsorships from local businesses that raise from \$1 - \$3,000 annually. Every event uses 30 – 40 volunteers. Event revenue is used to support sending students to three sister cities. The students have to compete to get onto the list to go to the sister city. It is a combination of volunteering for the events and school performance. This fundraising and student support has been in place and growing for over 40 years. Discussion followed regarding: membership levels and participation needed for support; use of a non-profit association to gather and disburse funds; past Milpitas experience in trying to garner interest to be a board member that was abandoned. It was noted that for all of the described events that there is a ready, interested, and vested audience. Discussion followed regarding low level of interest from Milpitas residents and corporations. Vice Chair Arbaugh commended Commissioner Arefi on his research and report. Commissioner Serpa reviewed Mountain View's approach: the students conduct their fundraising through yard sales which is handled through a non-profit association. What students don't raise from fundraising the parents have to pay the remaining amount. Commissioner Arbaugh asked of Milpitas students would be so motivated. Chair Grilli noted Santa Clara's approach with students earning their way through their involvement with fundraising events. Discussion followed regarding exploring first steps to establishing interest with students, such as blending the methods of Santa Clara and Mountain View. Student Liaison Horyza noted that there is greater interest in visiting an Asian country than Europe. Commissioner Arefi asked about bringing up the matter of starting up a non-profit association again. Staff noted that this could be a recommendation from the Subcommittee, that its members could go into the community and asking if people are willing to be responsibly involved. Commissioner Serpa noted that liability concerns come with these positions. Chair Grilli asked if the past paperwork could be reused. Staff responded that it would need to be reviewed. She will ask the City Attorney's Office to find this file again. Commissioner Arefi suggested that he continue his research with Morgan Hill, Mountain View, and Campbell. Alternate Commissioner Tim Chang is researching Cupertino. It was agreed to continue gathering information and report back at the March meeting.

2. Research of Possible Sister City in Latin America

This item was deferred to the March meeting.

3. Sister City Display of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)

Staff reported that an initial step was taken to review the second floor as requested by the SCC. There are two possible scenarios to place the MOUs: 1) within the small enclave in the rotunda or, 2) along the curved walls of the rotunda. Commissioner Nolan noted the popularity of the enclave and walking around the rotunda.

IX. Old Business

4. Seongnam City, Request for Sister City Relationship

Staff referred to past and recent correspondence between Milpitas and Seongnam. It was noted that Seongnam's plan for a possible sister city relationship was well thought out and acknowledged that it was more than the SCC could administer. There was a response from Seongnam that it would administer most aspects of the proposed relationship. A letter of intention from Seongnam City dated February 19, 2015, was sent to the SCC was reviewed. The earnest nature of this request and the interests for the relationship were discussed. Staff reviewed the past concern over the Comfort Woman issue and monument with the response from Seongnam that there are many other monuments of cultural heritage that would represent Seongnam. Staff announced that the Seongnam mayor will meet with Mayor Esteves on April 8, 2015. The SCC reviewed past actions of the SCC on this item. The concept of an international park and monuments was discussed. An emphasis on cultural and student exchanges over monuments was discussed. Protocol for sister cities approaching the Mayor and the SCC was reviewed and determined to be a flexible process. It was determined that local Seongnam City representatives will be invited to attend the March meeting so that the SCC may ask any remaining questions. It was noted that the issue of the Comfort Women should now be set aside. The SCC needs to go back to the presentation Seongnam provided. From that information, the SCC should determine the merits of the proposed relationship. Chair Grilli stated that a quick overview of the proposed relationship's advantages and activities would be helpful. It was discussed that the Chair and Vice Chair should attend the April 8 meeting with the two mayors.

5. E-Pal Project with Sister Cities

Staff reported that this project is a fun project that highlights the lives and interests of the students. She reviewed the recent assignment to send art about the Milpitas student to their sister city e-pal. Color samples were reviewed. Sister city contacts will receive the Milpitas e-pal artwork in early March for distribution to students. Staff noted that Andrea Hutchinson, teacher of the Digital Business Academy, reports that the least amount of response is from Dagupan.

6. Tsukuba City, Japan

There is an invitation to attend the Consul General of Japan's recognition of the 100th relationship established between California cities and Japanese cities.

7. City of Dagupan, Philippines

Staff needs to make further contact with the Dagupan contact. Also, Commissioner Mateo requests that the SCC find another commissioner to be the lead commissioner for this relationship. Staff reviewed the duties of lead commissioners and asked if another commissioner would fulfill this position.

8. Huizhou Municipality, China

No information reported.

X. Student Liaison Report

E-pal questionnaires for students are being reviewed for distribution to students involved in clubs. First, the questionnaire needs to be reviewed and possibly this is something that can again serve as a tool to promote the E-Pal Project. This could be used to gain interest and get students involved. Commissioner Arbaugh asked if the Student Liaison would ask other students if they would be interested in going to Huizhou, China.

XI. City Council Liaison Report - None

XII. School District Liaison Report – None

XIII. Future Agenda Items – Reviewed with these changes:

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
 - i. Tsukuba, Japan
 - ii. Dagupan, Philippines
 - iii. Huizhou, China
2. Sign Noting Sister Cities in City Plaza

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. until the regular meeting of March 26, 2015.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of February 26, 2015 to the regular meeting of March 26, 2015.

M / S: Arbaugh / Serpa

Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison