



Agenda

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SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

City Councilors' Conference Room

200 Lincoln Avenue

4:00 p.m.

955-6707

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 19, 2011
- IV. Financial Reports
 - a. Julie Bystrom, City of Santa Fe Liaison
 - b. Rudy Fernandez, Sister Cities Association Treasurer
- V. Committees Reports
 - a. Ling Tong - Report on visits from China
 - b. Carol Robertson - Report on Bukhara, Uzbekistan
 - c. Arthur Olivas - Report on Tsuyama, Japan
 - d. Julie Bystrom - Update on Sister Cities Activities
- VI. Report of Chair
 - a. Sister Cities - St. Michael's High and Instituto de Hispanidad
 - b. Meeting and Re-affirmation: Santa Fe-Sorrento
 - c. Status of Santa Fe Sister Cities Association
 - d. Other Sister Cities School Exchanges: Parral and Tsuyama
 - e. Initial Concept: Santa Fe - Sorrento event
- VII. Other Business
 - a. Discussion meeting room and schedule
 - b. City inclusion of Sister Cities – City Support
- VI. Adjournment

* Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's Office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

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Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee
January 18, 2012**

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SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

City Councilors' Conference Room

200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

Present

Gilbert L. Delgado, Chair - present

Rudy Fernandez - present

Daniel Anthony - present

Bernard Rubenstein - excused

Carol Robertson Lopez - excused

Arthur Olivas - present

Ling Tong - excused

Gilbert Romero - excused

Excused Absence

Roque Garcia, Alternate

Others Present:

Julie Bystrom, Staff Liaison

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Rudy Fernandez, seconded by Arthur Olivas.
Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. October 19, 2011

Members have not had an opportunity to review the minutes. A motion to postpone approval to the next meeting was made by Rudy Fernandez, seconded by Daniel Anthony. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. Financial Reports

a. Julie Bystrom, City of Santa Fe Liaison

Ms. Bystrom provided a verbal report indicating that the balance is approximately \$14,400. She explained that outside of the contract is a balance of approximately \$5,000 for a total of approximately 20,000. This includes the mayor's fund.

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b. Rudy Fernandez, Sister Cities Association Treasurer

Mr. Fernandez reported that the ending balance is \$5,035.46. This includes the previous balance of \$4,812.08 plus interest; \$196.52 reimbursement from the City and check from Julie Buckingham to a become member.

V. Committees Reports

a. Ling Tong - Report on visits from China

Ms. Tong is traveling and requested that Ms. Bystrom provide a short report. It was reported that two visitors from the consul's office in Los Angeles visited. The purpose of their visit was to contact Chinese students in the region to offer assistance. There was also discussion on facilitating a dance troop coming year. Ms. Bystrom has some involvement on behalf of the City to bring the dance troop here. She will keep the committee informed (although it falls outside of Sister City events). Ms. Bystrom suggested that they become a "friendship city".

Chair Delgado: Reported that he received a phone call from an individual from Los Angeles who was going to come to Santa Fe to visit with Ms. Tong. Mr. Delgado provided her number but does not know whether they got together. Mr. Delgado also stated that the Mayor's office had talked about 14 people coming this month or next.

Ms. Bystrom: Indicated that there is a group coming from China next month (approximately 14 – 20) for one a visit. Ling Tong will keep us advised on our role in greeting the delegation and whether we will host a dinner. Ms. Bystrom will keep the committee informed on its role.

Chair Delgado: Expressed concern because he was notified of an event for January 8 for a dinner and then he never heard any details. The individual may have gotten together with Ling Tong but he is not sure. If the Mayor's expectations are that the Committee is going to host the group then we need additional information.

Ms. Bystrom: The consul did contact Ling Tong. The consul from Los Angeles was from Beijing. The people that are coming are from Zhang Jia Jie. This is two different situations.

Chair Delgado: The Consul sounded very interested in visiting here but I did not know the connection. We get the word late and it is not clear if they are asking us to host. If we are going to be involved we need to be provided information.

Ms. Bystrom: Ms. Tong will be gone for about another month.

b. Carol Robertson - Report on Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Ms. Robertson was not present and no report was provided.

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c. Arthur Olivas - Report on Tsuyama, Japan

Mr. Olivas reported that he sent an e-mail to Tsuyama regarding doing something with the schools. Mr. Olivas will be going in November so he need to get something back from them as to when and what.

Chair Delgado: Are you talking with Monte del Sol?

Mr. Olivas: I am talking with Sheryl. If I don't get something in the next week I will call Sheryl and find out what they are doing. Sometimes they are communicating it directly and I do not know about it. I think she said she was sending a group over this year.

Chair Delgado: We are the Santa Fe Sister Cities group and all that is happening between two schools? We are out of the loop there.

Mr. Olivas: That is what we wanted. We set it up and made the connection and then it was turned over to them. Now that we want to do something official I have to get back in touch with them. They have not been doing the annual exchanges like they used to because of the poor economy. Every other year someone sends someone over. It may even be every three years.

Chair Delgado: In my visit to Sorrento there is a group of Japanese students that are sent every year. They spend two weeks there being introduced to everything. They receive a very nice greeting and are provided with extensive history. It seems to be a very successful thing. It tells me there must be funding to send students.

Mr. Olivas: I think the economy on both ends is so bad – especially with the yen. Everything is more and they may decide it is not viable economically to do every year.

Chair Delgado: Would it make sense for you and I to meet with Sheryl and let her know what we have been thinking. We need to explore the idea. It doesn't make sense to establish a sister school if it doesn't continue.

Mr. Olivas: They are willing to continue – it is just a matter of cost. If you want to be that official it will have to be with the director/principal. They will have to raise the money if they are both going. It is a matter of 1) were they planning to go? If they were it would be Sheryl and student. It would have to be for several days. I need information from Tsuyama first. If this is not the year they were going to send over a group – our group went last year and got stuck there. If they have to raise money every two years they will have to redo their plans to accommodate our request.

Chair Delgado: What is the difference between Monte del Sol and anybody else? They are not contacting us.

Mr. Olivas: There is no reason to.

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Ms. Bystrom: Do you have the name of the liaison?

Mr. Olivas: I have been communicating with her. Everything shuts down there for the New Year. I was not expecting anything too soon. Hopefully next week.

Chair Delgado: What contact do you have with Hiniki?

Mr. Olivas: Just in general. He is not officially with Sister Cities. He is a private person. He used to be my counterpart but the City decided to run it. He helps when he can.

Mr. Delgado: He is the one that paid to send our kids back?

Mr. Olivas: Yes.

Mr. Delgado: Should he be in the loop somewhere?

Mr. Olivas: Not officially. It would still have to go through the City.

Mr. Delgado: What contact do you have directly with Tsuyama?

Mr. Olivas: Ms. Okonomoko.

Mr. Delgado: But you have not heard from her?

Mr. Olivas: Not yet. They may be working out all the arrangements and will let us know what is planned. They sometimes jump right in.

Mr. Delgado: Keep us posted.

Mr. Olivas: I need to get back with Sheryl and find out what are the plans that Monte del Sol has for this year, if any. They went last year and I heard they were switching to every other year or every three years because of money.

Ms. Bystrom: If things become difficult to have physical exchanges with some of the countries maybe we can explore exchanges on a different level. Warehouse 21 did the robot and that was fantastic. We could explore those letter writing exchanges (elementary school level). There are other options.

Mr. Delgado: That is what we are going to do with Spain. That was a big idea we discussed. Part of the communication would be electronic and writing to get them acquainted. Also as an exchange of information such as newsletters, etc. It is sometimes hard to get both groups going on that. That is what I am looking for – some type of regular contact with Tsuyama.

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Mr. Olivas: That is basically how it was set up. They set up a computer connection and may be doing Skype. Once we set it up we turned it over and said if you need something you can contact us.

Mr. Delgado: Keep us posted. If we need to meet with the headmaster and talk in general terms I will be happy to join you.

Mr. Olivas: I will let you know.

d. Julie Bystrom - Update on Sister Cities Activities

Ms. Bystrom: The delegation is coming from China in February. There is a delegation coming from Turkey at the end of this month. Sister Cities does not have a role in it - they are businessmen that come every year during the legislative period. They are meeting with Simon Burkley from the Chamber. There was some talk that they want a Sister Cities relationship. I believe there are a lot of visitors coming to town. If they are interested in becoming a Sister City the Mayor will take the initiative of pointing them to us. If they are not it is work to determine what they are doing here and what they want. They may or may not have a Sister City relationship. They want a business connection. There is a delegation from Zhang Jia Jie. There are three kings from Africa coming in three months. The mayor is having me do research on Zambia to see if it would be a good Sister City connection. I believe he is fairly serious about it.

Mr. Olivas: Is that one we have been talking about. I thought it was Tanzania.

Mr. Anthony: We got information from the people in Moshe. I sent them the information that we first designed – the criteria for Sister Cities – and never heard from them again.

Ms. Bystrom: Argentina wanted a packet and I sent it. The African Delegation also asked for one. The Mayor had me send a letter. They wanted to get into the Folk Art festival, however they missed the deadline. We told them they could reapply. I will help them if the Mayor asks me to. They also wanted to send a troop of dancers. I said I would see if they could perform at the market. Folk Art asked for video of dancers and I will get that video to the market and if it meets their criteria they would say yes. The Folk Art does not have funds to bring people here.

Mr. Fernandez: I asked for the Mayor's address to send a Christmas greeting – I sent it. He responded wishing us a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. They are going to extend an invitation to go in the middle of July to visit during their fiesta. I also received an e-mail indicating that they are interested in establishing a Sister City School for ages 15 – 18. They were hoping to come in early January. I put the brakes on it and said I needed to contact a school and see if anyone is interested. They are planning to bring 6 students. I will get back to them after I have a chance to work with a school.

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Ms. Bystrom: Ms. Tong is doing an exchange with Santa Fe High School Maybe you want to look at Capital High.

Mr. Delgado: Sorrento is also interested in a sister school. I was interested in Capital High but there is no one that teaches Italian.

Mr. Anthony: Does Monte del Sol?

Mr. Delgado: Why don't we think about looking at a school to the north - like Espanola?

Mr. Fernandez: I believe they have their own sister city program.

Ms. Bystrom: We have to stay in Santa Fe County.

Mr. Olivas: They can have more than one.

Ms. Bystrom: We can do more than one.

Mr. Delgado: But it has to stay in Santa Fe?

Ms. Bystrom: Our contract is within Santa Fe. Everyone has their own sister city program.

Mr. Fernandez: What about Pojoaque?

Mr. Delgado: It would look good for Santa Fe if we can simulate with our neighbors. We should not ignore that.

VI. Report of Chair-

a. Sister Cities - St. Michael's High and Instituto de Hispanidad

Mr. Delgado: You received a report on what was happening with the arrangement that has been done. They came here and visited us. We sent three people and they stayed here. St. Michael's went all out on how they greeted them. Marcy Sullivan felt she had to do as well as they do for us. We saw a lot of things, visited a lot of people. It was fantastic. It has all been signed and agreed upon and reached the decision that we would start for a one trimester trial. It was agreed that we would send two students. There was disagreement that we wanted something more meaningful than a visit. Bit of a problem there – finally agreed upon that there would be 2 students in the spring. They are ready for them. Their exchange coming the other way is a bit nebulous. I am the liaison and I believe these things can be ironed out. We need communication from this end to tell them where we are and what we want to do. At the next meeting we will have a little bit better understanding. Ms. Sullivan is very excited about it and the board is supportive. We were very pleased with the way they felt about how well they were accepted here. The agreements have all been signed. We need to match it up. We got off track over the holidays. They have a teacher at St. Michael's (Patricia) from Spain. She teaches Spanish here. She is very interested in making this work. They have committed a lot of

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the resources. It is not easy for them to obtain grants – but they are doing a good job. I visited some of the classrooms and was impressed – good discipline, expectations, well behaved. Just needs a little bit of massaging but is in good shape. We have signed the agreement letters. I have a copy of the program that was set up if anyone is interested in looking at it. We covered a lot of space in the 3 days.

b. Meeting and Re-affirmation: Santa Fe-Sorrento

That was thanks to Dan. They had a good plan for us. We got to meet the new mayor and city council people. It is fantastic how much they can do. Antonito explained the history of it and the visits from before. The mayor was pretty interested in it. What do you do for tourism? He wanted a lot more information on that. We did meet the mayor and his assistant. He would be interested in a network. Sorrento could maintain the Sister City relationship and the smaller cities could network. Antonito is very effective. He is a very good friend of ours. Once we locate a school it will be good dialog. I sent an e-mail regarding the rotary club and folk art and other issues I would like you to think about. I sent the draft to Antonito and I want to share his response [shares e-mail].

Right now they are not ready to commit. Maybe one of the things we could think about is inviting a team from Sorrento – those interested in folk art program. I am not sure if they are interested in sending their craftspeople. I am talking about a group of 3 or 4 to bring here for some reason. They have a strong connection to Norway – Italy – big name areas.

I think what he is hinting at is that Santa Fe would dedicate something to Sorrento or have them involved. It would be attractive to them and it would be a reason to come here – to attend the dedication. It could be the first step in trying to establish this relationship. If we take a small step first and work through some ideas we can look at this the following year. If you have strong reservations of this let me know.

Mr. Anthony: Did you see the work they do? We are interested in getting a couple to come here.

Ms. Bystrom: The application deadline is October. The Folk Art has already chosen for this summer. Applications in October will be for 2013. You want to get Sorrento on board for that. I asked Sabrina about the possibility of having an exhibit of our Sister City artists in our gallery. We schedule about a year out but we could consider doing a call for artists in our sister cities. It would be a great show. We could have an artist represent each Sister City.

Mr. Anthony: Seven artists?

Ms. Bystrom: It would be a great exchange. We could get people to come out to possibly see the artists.

Mr. Anthony: It is a great idea but a huge project.

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Ms. Bystrom: I think it would be a great exchange.

Mr. Delgado: In Sorrento we went to a museum. We met the head of a museum and I thought it would be a good idea to have an exchange of museums program.

Mr. Olivas: We brought that up 5 – 6 years ago. I suggested Sister Museum set up as well.

Mr. Delgado: Sorrento is interested. The idea of using the gallery is good. We need to put those together into action things rather than just talk about them. We need to explore dates, how many artists, those types of logistics. If you can get that for us under your wing (Julie) it would help.

Mr. Olivas: It would help if we know the deadlines and parameters.

Mr. Delgado: Who is in charge of the gallery?

Ms. Bystrom: Sabrina. We just did an exchange with Soule, South Korea. Rebecca was working on the exchange. They have an exchange right now with a pottery exchange. That made me think of the gallery and using Sister Cities for that type of exhibition. It would showcase our artists and our countries. It is a lot of work to ship merchandise back and forth. I will tell Sabrina that Sister Cities is interested.

Mr. Anthony: Is there money available?

Ms. Bystrom: We would need to write a grant.

Mr. Delgado: To who?

Ms. Bystrom: The NEA, the State, Sister City International Office. There may be international funds with Sister City International. I received an e-mail a few months back from Washington DC asking for information on what we are showcasing. There are possibilities – we just need to figure out what they are.

Mr. Anthony: They used to have certain countries that they would highlight each year. There were special grants for those. By the time I heard about it Japan had been the year before. They will do special grants for those.

Mr. Delgado: What do we get from Sister Cities International?

Ms. Bystrom: Nothing. Three to four years ago someone went to the city council and advocated for money that went into our fund. We have managed to hold on to that. I have carried it over for 1 – 2 years but we want to make a request to make sure our fund stays where it is. We should be fundraising to build our fund.

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Mr. Fernandez: As far as our non-profit standing, we are in good standing until 5/5/2012 and has officers that were recorded. I have a new form to fill out with new directors and officers. With the AGs office we are registered with them. I have to update it this year. We will be fined for not filing last year – in June. They may waive the fine after I explain the situation. We need to file our tax returns with them.

Mr. Delgado: With the AG's office?

Mr. Fernandez: Yes. They want to know how much money we are making.

Mr. Delgado: We need more of a discussion meeting on certain specific topics and that's it. Two topics at the next meeting. It can be more of a brainstorming meeting.

Mr. Anthony: Can we use money to help bring the guys from Sorrento? Our group has some money but it is not enough.

Ms. Bystrom: I would have to explore how it would be done.

Mr. Anthony: We have places they can stay and we can drive them around.

VII. Other Business

a. Discussion meeting room and schedule

Mr. Delgado: There are two things we need to do regarding a possible event that would happen in light of the correspondence from Sorrento. We need to start out with a smaller visitation. Julie will explore if we can do this outside of Santa Fe County. Also, the possibility of a retreat. There is too much floating around that we don't get to grips with. I have a meeting with the Mayor in February and I will go over this with him. Our committee needs traction.

Mr. Anthony: We need more people.

Mr. Olivas: We need the people on the committee to be here.

Ms. Bystrom: Acknowledged that everyone's schedule is hectic with all the traveling. She suggested the idea of a flexible meeting each month and offered to coordinate around everyone's schedules if they will provide her their calendar.

Mr. Anthony: That would be a way to make sure everyone comes.

Mr. Delgado: We had a meeting of the association and it was fairly productive. Perhaps have one or two per year that are not our regular meeting – just a brainstorming session with topics. The next meeting could be more of a brainstorm session and not publicized.

Mr. Olivas: We would be in violation of the Open Meetings Act.

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Mr. Delgado: The association could meet without having to publish.

Mr. Olivas: If we do a retreat it should be the association.

Ms. Bystrom: I cannot attend the association meeting because I hold the contract – it would be a violation.

Mr. Delgado: Let's just advertise and not have a strict agenda, just topics. We can publicize as necessary.

Ms. Bystrom: We can have a planning meeting with the committee. Once we get them both going we can do this. I believe in this committee. We just need to get them together.

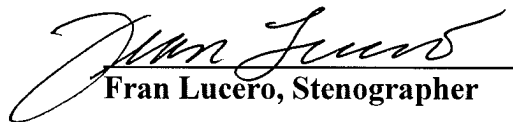
b. City inclusion of Sister Cities – City Support

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Sister Cities Committee, a motion to adjourn was made at 5:15 by Art Olivas, seconded by Dan Anthony. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Signature Page:

Gilbert Delgado, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer