

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
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February 10, 2020

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**SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2020
4:00 – 5:05 PM**

GOALS TO THE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

More effectively market Sister Cities and what they do

Develop educational programs in schools

Strengthen relationships with existing Sister Cities

Re-enforce and build existing relationships through trade and tourism efforts

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Carol Robertson Lopez, Chair, called the Sister Cities Meeting to order at 4:00 pm, Administrative Conference Room, 201 West Marcy Street, Santa Fe, NM, a quorum is declared in roll call.

Present

Carol Robertson Lopez, Chair

Rudy Fernandez

Dr. Jeff Case

Arthur Olivas

Carl Moore

Not Present

Bernard Rubenstein, Resigned

Carlene Carey

Sky Stith

Others Present

Michelle Reich, Children's Librarian, LaFarge Branch, San Miguel de Allende Project

Erminia Tapia, Staff, Arts Commission

Satori Murata

Ms. Tucker

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Fernandez moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes, January 8, 2020

Mr. Olivas moved to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020 as presented, second by Mr. Fernandez, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

4. Report of Staff

a) Randy Randall, Director of Tourism

Mr. Randall informed the committee members that there is a new flight coming into Santa Fe from Los Angeles. We look forward to the flights extending out from April thru October 2020.

Mr. Randall had the pleasure of meeting with the delegation from Tunisia. Tunisia is a country in the Marhreb region of North America. They were very impressed with the City of Santa Fe and we look forward to welcoming them back.

A meeting was held between the Chair and Mr. Randall to discuss how we deal with committee vacancies that occur. Mr. Randall asked if the present members want to continue to serve on the Sister Cities Committee and if so, to please send in a letter for reconsideration. If there are any recommendations please provide the names to the Chair. Mr. Randall stated that responding to the notice when it goes out is very important if people are interested.

The Chair stated that Sister Cities International will hold their annual meeting in Santa Fe from July 8-10, 2020. This will be at the time of the Folk Art Market, reception is proposed to be at the Governor's Mansion and workshops to be held at the Santa Fe Convention Center. Albuquerque will be co-hosting with Santa Fe, this is a great opportunity for Santa Fe to shine. Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for sister city programs in nearly 500 communities, with relationships in over 2,000 communities in more than 140 countries. They provide members with several programs to support them in promoting citizen diplomacy, and members work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through exchanges that focus on arts and culture, youth and education, business and trade, and community development.

Sister Cities International and their members do what is essential in promoting the importance of international exchange and people-to-people relationships worldwide. Arts and cultural programs are some of the oldest and most robust in the sister cities network. These exchanges take many different forms such as musical performances, art exhibits, peace parks and gardens, and international cultural festivals.

Mr. Randall stated that the number of international visitors that come to visit Santa Fe is remarkable, for a city of 80,000.

The Chair will work with Mr. Randall on the logistics. Ms. Tapia will coordinate native American dancers for the event, there will be events at IAIA, and the challenge right now is how to feed people and get to IAIA. It is such a privilege to have people from all over the world visiting our city.

Mr. Randall said it is a great opportunity if people want to stay over for IFAM.

The Chair has also talked about Air B&Bs paying their taxes and a lot of people may be staying there which helps the city economy.

Dr. Case asked, how can the local community help? The Chair said she would like to have walking tours and volunteers to help meet and greet and stay with them during their visit. People like to have a local sharing the charm and history of the city. The Chair said we will need to work on scheduling workshops, getting on the Mayor's schedule for the welcome, organization and logistics.

Mr. Moore asked if there is discretion on what workshops we could put on? The Chair said, yes. Mr. Moore said that we should talk about the workshops in more detail. The Chair wants to talk about folk art for Sister Cities. The Chair continues conversations with Stuart Ashman from IFAM to discuss how you conduct a folk-art market.

b) Erminia Tapia

Updates: Airport Art Piece has been located, it is in storage here at the Art and Cultures Department Insafe keeping. Ms. Tapia is working with Mr. Baca at the airport to arrange for installation and it should be installed within the next 2 months. Dr. Case said he would like for it to be communicated to Mr. Baca at the Airport that there are other states that have these types of displays. Ms. Tapia said they are working on dimensions. Mr. Randall said it might be best if Mr. Rod Lambert would go out and be pro-active to find the location and have it installed. Mr. Randall did instruct that it be handled quickly and there is funding for this project. Mr. Olivas talked about an opening ceremony to unveil it and possibly combine with the announcement of the flights coming in and out of Santa Fe that would be great. Staff will continue to work on this project.

Ms. Tapia talked about Arts and Culture, the new name for the Department, Sister Cities website falls under this purview. Any updates can be sent to Erminia to update. Mr. Moore asked if there could be a toggle to take you to Sister Cities. At this time, it is not possible. Events will be on the website.

Ms. Tapia talked about New Year's cards. Mr. Randall will work on this with Ms. Tapia.

Ms. Tapia announced that she will not be able to attend the meeting as her tasks have changed. She will prepare the agenda, but she will not staff the meeting.

Mr. Randall will speak to the City Clerk about having a live Stenographer at all meetings.

Dr. Case would also like to have Ms. Kamiyama attend the meetings when possible or that messages get to Ms. Kamiyama about direct questions.

The Chair would like to send a request to Ms. Kamiyama to have Ms. Tapia attend the Sister Cities International meeting in July, her staffing assistance would be great.

5. Report of Chair

October 20-23, 2020 – Okayama, next door to Tsuyama, there will be a conference for sister cities. We will be invited to that event and it would be nice to get a delegation to attend. The Chair reiterated the formality in Japan and what a privilege it would be to attend.

At the end of April, Icheon, Korea ceramic festival has been cancelled due to concerns of the Corona virus. We don't know how it will impact the economy.

6. Committee

a) Education Committee

Dr. Case: Sent out report Young Artists and Authors Showcase (YAAS) Exhibit by the students. It is scheduled for June, so we may not be able to get it in to schools due to the late notice. The deadline to submit entries is April 3, 2020. This year's theme asks students to explore questions by highlighting citizen diplomacy and the create ways that we create peace through people-to-people interaction. 2020 Theme: "One World: Out of Many, We are One". Student must be 13-18 years old. Information on the dimensions, application form and other pertinent information can be reviewed at <https://sistercities.org/YAAS>. This is a travelling exhibit, artwork, poetry, (they don't send the easels, they send everything in boxes). There was uncertainty if it should be done this year. Mr. Randall asked how much room would be needed? Possibly room for 5 easels and it does not have to be in just one location.

Mr. Randall said it would be easier if we could locate it at one location. Mr. Randall did say that this is the perfect venue for the Convention Center. Question is by what date do we need to let them know. Dr. Case said that entries need to be in by April 3, 2020. Ms. Stith has 2 daughters that attend Mandela and the exhibit was there last year. She was of great assistance.

Mr. Olivas said that the exhibit would be nice to have during the International Sister Cities conference here in Santa Fe.

Ms. Tucker asked that more information be sent to her on the space that is needed. Dr. Case directed Ms. Tucker to the website for AAAS.

Dr. Case – Violin Teacher who was the chaperone for the kids that played at Icheon wants to know if we want to sponsor a global youth concert. I am inclined to say no due to the cost. The Chair said possibly next year as we have one big event to plan for this year.

Michelle Reich: Ms. Tapia and Mr. Randall were instrumental in moving the letter forward to the Mayor to be sent to San Miguel de Allende. She would like to start doing some fund raising here in Santa Fe for San Miguel and bring together people in Santa Fe who have interest in San Miguel de Allende.

The Chair said that Sister Cities cannot do fund raising. Suggestion is to go to the Friends of the Library and have them serve as the fiscal agent where people can give money to.

Mr. Randall asked how much money is needed, what is the budget? Mr. Reich said she does not have a budget at this time. Santa Fe probably does not need as much funding, but San Miguel de Allende will. The O’Keeffe, Santa Fe Playhouse and Santa Fe Opera are interested in supporting. San Miguel does not have an opera company, but Santa Fe Opera would help. She will provide an update to Mr. Randall as soon as she can.

The Chair said she did have a conversation with Mr. Joe Schepps, and he is very interested in helping and would host something at his hotel.

Mr. Randall stated the sooner you can get a number for a financial commitment is important.

Ms. Tucker said that the Santa Fe Public Library applied for a Big Read Grant which is the NEA National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Program and it supports the big read in the community. They have selected “In To the Beautiful North” by Luis Alberto Urrea and hoping to have programs throughout the month of September and October to promote literacy, to promote reading the one book and having discussions about the book. Ms. Tucker feels it fits well with Sister Cities to have some type of programming during that period. She will provide update as it progresses. Perhaps the program with San Miguel will be a part of that.

Mr. Moore asked if the Library would be the convener for the discussion of the book? Ms. Tucker said she is hoping that all community partners would hold discussions, the library will be the glue that brings everyone together and promote some of the programs that are taking place. We are asking like museums, galleries other organizations to hold some sort of programming but we would support book discussions as well.

Mr. Moore said he is asking because his experience with this kind of thing, and I have a lot of it, it will go better if facilitators have some training. Ms. Tucker agrees, she said they would have librarians with book discussions. Mr. Moore said that training and how to facilitate that conversation should be explicit rather than hoped for.

Mr. Randall: The first Santa Fe Literature event week is going to be October 22-25th, 2020. Is the author around?

Ms. Tucker said they plan to bring the Author and partner with the literacy volunteers in Santa Fe. Mr. Randall said that he feels that they can help. Ms. Tucker and Mr. Randall will talk about dates for events at the convention center and promote the Literacy Festival.

A decision on the NEA grant will not be known until April 2020, depending on community partners. Article on Community Read and there is great interest. The Chair said short story readings were great. Ms. Tucker said that she would like to see this continue, it is so much fun and the community looks for it. Hopefully San Miguel de Allende and Parral, MX would participate.

Ms. Tucker and Mr. Moore will continue the conversation.

Ms. Reich said they plan to do life span...

b) Uzbekistan/Bukhara

May 30-31, 2020 - Silk and Spices Market

Bukhara wants to build a hotel in the downtown area, it was based on what the artist saw in Santa Fe. They were declined, they now have a new approval and they are excited about their project to preserve their heritage and cultural exchange, friendship and being open. Following UNESCO, exposure to Santa Fe

c) Holguin, Cuba

Mr. Moore will be in Cuba March 10, 2020 and for most of the month.

Mr. Moore said that he would like to get meeting notices with more advance. Notice was received on Monday with meeting today on Wednesday.

d) Icheon, South Korea

e) Livingstone, Zambia

The Chair met the Mayor of Zambia in the fall. She has received notice that they would like to work with us. The Chair will work with Mr. Randall to extend an

invitation to the Mayor of Zambia to visit Santa Fe, possibly for the African American festival.

f) Parral, Mexico

Mr. Fernandez stated that the Fiesta celebration is July 20th and if there is interest, he will contact them to seek an invitation. The Chair and other committee members would like to attend. Ms. Reich would also like to be informed. Mr. Fernandez will report at the next meeting.

g) San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Report above.

h) Santa Fe de la Vega

The Chair noted that they sent an amazing letter to Toni Atencio about Mr. Delgado's passing, they will be doing a memorial in his honor. The Chair is in hope that Ms. Atencio will show interest in becoming a member of the Sister Cities Committee as she was very active with Mr. Delgado.

i) Sorrento, Italy

Nothing to report

j) Tsuyama, Japan

Mr. Olivas did not have anything to report.

Satori Murata will work on the drumming request for the Sister Cities International meeting in July. Satori will be going to Japan next month; she will get information from Michelle on the Library pen pal program and will work with the libraries and/or schools.

Mr. Olivas said a few years back they started a library program and he sent Santa Fe and NM cultural books to Japan and they were so appreciative.

Satori also shared that the Santa Fe Opera musicians went to Japan and had a concert, they were well received. It was the Apple Festival in 2019, they celebrated sister cities and their anniversary. A poster was made explaining Santa Fe, they had a table showing how to make NM cuisine (guacamole), salsa and other local food. They asked for many pictures of Santa Fe and our city received the credits. Japanese students came last July and this year our students (Monte del Sol) will be reciprocating the visit, The Chair asked that these wonderful posters be shared with the Sister Cities Committee so they can be posted on the website. Ms. Murata to follow up.

k) Zhangjiajie, China

The Chair received a letter asking if we could send medical supplies. The Chair connected with other sister cities, unfortunately so much of what is needed is made

in China. Without a strong advocate on the Sister Cities Committee, it is difficult to know more details.

7. Committee Member Update

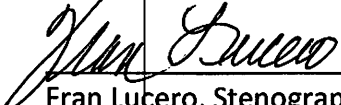
New Members: The Chair would like to have someone who is a writer.

8. Adjourn

The Chair called for adjournment at 5:05 pm.

Signature Page:

Carol Robertson-Lopez, Chair



Fran Lucero, Stenographer