



Village of Hanover Park Administration

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hpil.org

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Rick Roberts
Sharmin Shahjahan

Village Manager
Juliana A. Maller

VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

Virtual Meeting
2121 Lake Street, Hanover Park, Illinois 60133
Tuesday, April 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m. by Sister Cities Committee Chair Pamela Fowler.

PRESENT:	Committee Members:	Pamela Fowler, Trustee Herb Porter, Frank Grant-Acquah, Darius Robinson
ABSENT:	Committee Members:	Arnulfo Flores-Auxiliary, Adelaide Grant-Acquah, Gustavo Pineda-Auxiliary, Maria Pineda, Deputy Chief Terrence Sherrill
ALSO PRESENT:		Guest Jennifer Ramirez, Staff Liaison Katherine Perez

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Motion by Trustee Porter to accept agenda. Second by Frank. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Frank to approve meeting minutes from March 9, 2021. Second by Darius. Voice vote: all ayes. No discussion. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

- 5-a. Penpal program update – No activity to report. Program will start up again in the Fall 2021 at the beginning of new school year – continue.
- 5-b. Travel planning for 2022 Cape Coast visit and fundraising plans – continued – Attempts were made to join the March 11 Ghana regional call to learn about potential group travel opportunities, but incorrect passwords had been distributed for both the call and recording of the meeting. Trustee Porter will sit in on future calls and update Chair Pamela whose new work schedule will prevent her from participating. Frank receives emails directly from Lorna, and he also participates on the conference calls. The next regional call is scheduled for April 24. Darius will check his schedule to determine whether or not he will be able to participate on the call. Trustee Porter

reiterated from the last meeting that consideration can be given to traveling to Cape Coast with a larger group and then being able to collaborate with others to do a team project while there.

Frank commented that he is planning to leave for Ghana on May 13. Trustee Porter said that he has a Village of Hanover Park street sign that he would like for Frank to take to Cape Coast for presentation to either the Chief there or to whomever else may be appropriate. He commented that the sign isn't very big and that it would fit in a large suitcase. Trustee Porter requested that the committee members sign the street sign, and committee agreed that doing so would be a nice gesture to personalize the gift. Trustee Porter will meet with Chair Pamela on Sunday so she can sign the street sign. Thereafter, the sign will be dropped off at the Police Department so that members can stop by at their convenience to sign the street sign (24/7).

- 5-c. 2021 Special Events: Black History Month Event cancelled this year; discussion of Juneteenth event planning – establishment of working group and outline review – While discussing plans for the Juneteenth event, it was determined that planning would be extremely difficult and time consuming due to the unknown protocols that would be in place in June 2021.

Chair Pamela motioned to postpone the 2021 Juneteenth event until further notice or until time permits. Second by Darius. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Prior to making the decision to postpone the Juneteenth event, the committee had engaged in valuable conversation about its planning including the hope to have an outdoor venue such as the gazebo next to the ball field; available technology / audio visual resources; event theme of celebration with a party-type atmosphere; afro-centric dance performance by ballet school as part of the entertainment; playing games; serving picnic or BBQ-style food, possibly prepared by the Boy Scouts; and inviting members of other Village committees to help host. The Juneteenth outline prepared by Darius was reviewed, and it was suggested it could be explored again in the future and possibly adapted for a Black History Month program. The outline featured Mary W. Jackson and Katherine Johnson, and Darius commented that the outline was intended as a guide and that the presentation could showcase their accomplishments, the obstacles they encountered, and how they persevered.

Trustee Porter had commented that it will be necessary to recruit others to help with an event. Consideration needs to be given to inviting other committees to be involved with the planning of activities, working together instead of operating in silos, with each group doing its own thing and no common purpose. He suggested reaching out to CIDC to see if they would like to collaborate.

- 5-d. Cape Coast improvements – Progress report on sign and status of 2020 scholarship funds – Frank announced that until he arrives in Cape Coast in May to personally oversee production, the sign for the school and the sign for the hospital are on hold. He advised that each sign would be an original work, hand drawn by a sign artist using permanent paint. Frank advised that the signs wouldn't be printed by computer, and he further clarified that the computer-generated signage illustrations previously received from Cape Coast had been created as possible design ideas with the finally selected image to be provided for the sign artist to mimic. The artist will look at the selected design for each sign and then draw each design on a board.

Katherine noted that after a previous exchange of emails between Cape Coast and Hanover Park discussing the proposed proofs and the need to revise based on guidance from the editorial review board (font, sizing/placement of the globe, "USA" tag), she had provided a sample design for Frank to send to Cape Coast so that they could use that as a guide and revise their proofs accordingly. During the meeting, it was learned that Frank hadn't forwarded the suggested sample design, choosing instead to put the sign project on hold until he arrived in Cape Coast. Frank requested that a second design also be provided showing what the school sign should look like. Katherine will check into it and provide whatever may be available. Trustee Porter commented that if Frank takes the Village of Hanover Park street sign with him when he visits Cape Coast, that will provide a real time model to use as a blueprint for them to follow. Frank commented that the sign for the hospital is smaller and was close to the size of the street sign and that the sign for the school would be about four times or more larger. He wants to be in Cape Coast to make sure that they make the sign as close as possible to what we provide.

The status of the Cape Coast 2020 scholarship funds was requested as had been discussed at the March meeting when it was learned that the school had been closed for a year. Trustee Porter commented that they may have done the same as other institutions and put the money into a credit account to hold until reopening. He asked if Frank could double-check to make sure something like that was in place to satisfy what we need to know, and Frank said he would do so.

- 5-e. 2021 Illinois Sister Cities Association Virtual Conference, April 23 – registration details pending – Katherine will arrange for payment of the registration fee for Trustee Porter, Frank, Darius and Jessica to attend the online annual conference meeting on April 23. Pamela inquired about voting for the Illinois state board members and said she would get her ballot out the next day. Frank said that all positions need to be filled and that he would vote for Hanover Park. He commented that all of the candidates are recommended. Frank asked if anyone on the committee would be interested in serving on the Illinois state board, to take up his space, because he is stepping down, citing heavy travel plans.
- 5-f. Focus on Valparaiso (Porter) – Discussion will be deferred until the next meeting at the Chair's request.

6. TOWNHALL SESSION
None.

7. OLD BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- 7-a. Recap of recent activities
None – no recent activities. The recent SCI regional conference calls fell through as no one from the committee was able to join and participate in the online workshops nor were the recordings accessible.
- 7-b. Budget activity update
 - Katherine advised that there hadn't been any budget activity since the previous meeting when it was reported that the \$50 payment made been made for the annual Illinois state dues.
 - Payment of the annual conference registration fee in the amount of \$18 (4 attendees) is pending and will be processed per instructions from the conference organizer.

- Trustee Porter advised that the Village Board will be reviewing contributions that the Village makes toward scholarships; no impact on the 2021 fiscal year budget.

8. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

8-a. Upcoming event announcements

- State Conference, 4/23

8-b. Agenda topics for upcoming meetings

- Focus on Valparaiso
- Cape Coast improvements – Progress report on signs and status of 2020 scholarship funds

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Pamela to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Second by Trustee Porter. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by:

Katherine Perez, Interim Staff Liaison

Pamela Fowler, Chair
Hanover Park Sister Cities Committee