

ORIGINAL SIGNED MINUTES

Sister Cities Committee August 11, 2009 Minutes

Members in Attendance: Chairperson Linda McCance Packham, Pamela Fowler, Adelaide Grant-Acquah, Frank Grant-Acquah, Mary Harrison (7:48 p.m. arrival). Staff Liaison Katherine Perez.

Also Present: Village President Rod Craig, Village Clerk Eira Corral (8:50 p.m. arrival), Immediate Past Trustee Robert Packham, Maria Pineda, Macario Flores and Arnulfo Flores.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to accept the Agenda as presented made by Frank, seconded by Pamela. All ayes. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion made by Pamela and seconded by Frank to accept the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Pen Pal Program – Hanover Highlands & Hanover Park Primary Schools

A packet of pen pal letters has been received from Hanover Park Primary School in Cape Coast. The letters will be forwarded to Principal David Negron for distribution to students at our local Hanover Highland School. The Chairperson read aloud from some of the letters which were also passed around the room. There was discussion about the possibility of scanning all of the letters and the decision was made that a small collection of the letters will be scanned. Pamela will review and select the letters. Further comments were made by Mayor Craig that the pen pal program is a great idea, and the Chairman stated that the program has been a success.

Potential Sister Cities Activities/Programs – Elgin Community College

EEC President Dr. David Sam has expressed the desire to have conversations about off-campus relationships that could be developed such as the formation of exchange groups, exploration of opportunities for young people, and the provision of training opportunities in the community (police and fire).

Ghana Trip

Frank reported on some recent developments which could impact the travel plans for the HP Sister Cities trip to Ghana. In conversations with Prince Kwame Kludjeson, it was learned that the date of the Africa Global Sister Cities Foundation international conference will be changed. Discussion followed. Unresolved issues include whether the HP Sister Cities group will still go

to Ghana in November 2009 or wait; and the outcome of Gates Foundation Grant Award. A visit in November would be less structured whereas a visit in March would be more formal.

Pending confirmation of a November trip to Ghana, more will need to be done with regard to a visit at the Cape Coast War Memorial including a letter of greetings from Mayor Craig and making arrangements for the laying of a wreath and distribution of "Buddy Poppies" at the Memorial site. Mayor Craig advised that Trustee Roberts would be obtaining the poppies from his contact with the local VFW organization.

The Chairman will confirm the date of the State Conference with Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ghanafest

Frank reported that nineteenth annual Ghanafest (July 25th/Washington Park) was a success. For the first time ever there was a gate fee, but this did not deter attendance. The Fest is still a part of the Mayor's Special Events, but funding was reduced which necessitated the gate fee. This all-day cultural event features the traditions, tastes and sounds from all regions of Ghana. Although the First Lady of Ghana was in Chicago, she was unable to attend Ghanafest due to a schedule conflict. She was in town to accept an award of cardiac equipment presented by Miller Brewing Company.

Memorial Ceremony

Regrettably, Frank's eldest brother, Willie, recently passed away. The memorial service took place in Dolton on August 2nd, and Frank thanked Linda and Robert Packham for attending the service. Condolences were extended to Frank and Adelaide for their loss as they described their personal feelings about Willie and his leadership and influence on the Chicago metropolitan Ghanaian Community.

Dolton Sister City Visit

Dolton is trying to twin with another city in Ghana. The respective Mayor is currently in Dolton and Frank has invited him to pay a visit before his return to Ghana.

NEW BUSINESS

Introductions were made by meeting observers Maria Pineda, Macario Flores and Arnulfo Flores who assisted in the facilitation of a meeting between Mayor Craig and the Mayor of the City of Valparaiso. They discussed various aspects of developing a relationship including projects and exchanges. Mayor Craig inquired about the next step to proceed, and Chairman McCance Packham advised of the "courtship process" of continued communication, visits and the need to develop a business plan objective for the relationship. Frank added that in addition to the steps we take, the local people in the Mexican city also need encourage their Mayor to be involved as well. The Chairman advised that there is a US/Mexican group within International which could be consulted for guidance and that membership in Sister Cities International would

allow possible access to grants. The Chairman will contact International to request a list of existing relationships with Mexican cities.

Maria, Macario and Arnulfo briefly described some of the activities with which they have been involved as supporters of the Federacion de Clubes Unidos organization. They were invited to attend future HP Sister Cities Committee meetings for the purpose of gaining more information about the function of the committee, sharing ideas and learning how to proceed with the relationship process. Mayor Craig commented that both he and the Village Clerk are in contact with the principals who also may be able to assist in the formation of relationships/exchanges .

Mayor Craig announced that the Victory Over Violence Exhibit was on display this week at the Park District art gallery. The event is hosted by the Hanover Park Chapter of SGI-USA (Bhuddhist Association for Peace, Culture & Education) which is a youth education movement. Activities will conclude on Friday (8/14) with a workshop/seminar from at 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion for adjournment made by Adelaide and seconded by Mary. All ayes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

Signature:  _____ Date: 8 Sept. 2009