

Sister Cities Committee
May 12, 2009
Minutes

Members in Attendance: Chairperson Linda McCance Packham, Adelaide Grant-Acquah, Frank Grant-Acquah, Pamela Fowler, Gladys Lawson, Mary Harrison, Ruth Ayukeson-Bokwe, Staff Liaison Kim Benedix.

Also Present: Village President Rodney Craig, Robert Packham

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

Acceptance of Agenda:

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

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion made by Pamela and seconded by Adelaide to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

April Convention:

The state convention held in Schaumburg at the new convention center was very interesting. Troop 398 of Hanover Park presented colors at the Parade of Flags. A dancer representing Japan performed. She was outstanding. A recommendation was made she be invited to perform at upcoming Hanover Park cultural events.

Patrick Madden spoke to Hanover Park about the Gates Foundation Grant, which affords \$7 million over a three year time period focusing on US/African partnerships concentrating on the areas of water, food, medical supplies. Also, there is no matching requirement. Details will be forwarded as they become available.

Frank Grant-Acquah's Trip to Cape Coast

During Frank's recent trip to Ghana the Presidential nominee (Mr. Anthony Akins) was confirmed. He attended the assembly at which time the President was unanimously voted in. Mr. Akins invited Frank, as a representative of Hanover Park's Sister City Committee, and town leaders to a luncheon. Mr. Akins acknowledged Frank and said we will be working together. He also met with the Regional Minister and Paramount Chief. Frank delivered school supplies and met with Ms. Otto and Bertha (a nurse at the Regional Hospital) Bertha is with Children's International. Linda thanked Frank for taking time from his visit to do Sister City business during his personal trip.

Mayor Craig inquired about the "letter of introduction" he signed. Frank explained the purpose of the letter indicating its protocol and courtesy purposes. Mayor Craig indicated if an updated letter is ever needed Frank should feel free to request one.

November Trip:

No new information is available regarding the November 2009 trip. Mayor Craig was invited to travel with the group and attend the Conference in Accra scheduled to begin November 4. Frank explained the difference between the Parliamentary and Traditional system in Ghana. It is beneficial to bring Sister City into the Traditional System as it is not as limited as the Parliamentary system.

Mayor Craig said he will consider traveling to Ghana at some point, but probably not this November. He is open to discussion on the topic. Mayor Craig felt it would be appropriate to reciprocate the visit as the sitting Ghana President has traveled to Hanover Park and received an Honorary Citizenship.

The Hanover Park Sister City Committee has been involved in many projects with Ghana. We've sent seven containers of relief materials. Other groups contributed items including medical supplies, school supplies, wheelchairs, clothing, etc.

New Business:

Mayor Craig wanted to come to this meeting and let the committee know he'd like to put the past behind and move on. He wants to support this committee and other committees. He also stated he considers Bob Packham part of the committee. He informed current committee members that he has been contacted by individuals interested in forming Sister City relationships with other countries. He stated he will extend an invitation to residents interested in expanding the Sister City program to attend the July 14, 2009 Sister City Committee meeting in his upcoming HiLighter article. Linda can invite Reta Brudd, Illinois State Coordinator, Sister Cities International, to attend the informational meeting. Reta would be delighted to speak about the Sister City organization. Linda recommended if the Sister City program was to expand, that individual committees be established for each country and an oversight Sister City Committee be formed. The oversight committee can assist in establishing Sister City relationships with the additional countries.

Board Liaison

Linda stated Trustee Bill Cannon has expressed interest in participating with the Sister City committee. Mayor Craig said he will discuss Bill Cannon's possible appointment as Board Liaison with Trustee Cannon.

Adjournment:

Motion for adjournment made by Frank, seconded by Ruth. All ayes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM

Minutes Approved:

Signature: Elena L. Corral Date: 6/8/09