SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE
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MARCH 11, 2015

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SANTA FE SISTER CITIES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015
4:00 PM – 4:55 PM
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**
   Rudy Fernandez, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm in the City Councilor's Conference room. A quorum was declared by roll call.

2. **Roll Call**
   Present
   Rudy Fernandez
   Dr. Jeff Case
   Arthur Olivas
   Bernard Rubenstein
   Cathy Magni
   Kim Song
   Ling Tong

   Excused
   Carol Robertson Lopez, Chair
   Gilbert Delgado
   Carl Moore
   Lauren Komer

3. **Approval of Agenda**

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

4. **Approval of Minutes**

   Correction: Spelling of ~~Uspakistan~~ Correct spelling: Uzbekistan

   Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the minutes of February 9, 2015 as amended, second by Dr. Case, motion carried by unanimous voice.

5. **Report of Staff**
   a) Update on Airport / City Hall Project
      Ms. Bystrom reported that she now has pictures for our entire sister cities. Ms. Bystrom is working with the contractor to assure that changes can be made to the signage in the future if necessary. Ms. Bystrom shared the photos and samples of work from the contractor, Discovery. Ms. Bystrom also shared the wording for each country and asked the committee members to review the description that pertained to their country.

Mr. Rubenstein said that he would like to have an opportunity to revise the verbiage for Holguin. Ms. Bystrom said that it can only be a maximum of 30 words.

Ms. Bystrom will send the wording to our Sister City committee members to view the wording and have changes back to her by Friday, March 13, 2015. Thank you to Julie for all of her hard work.

Dr. Case asked where the locations are at the airport. Ms. Bystrom said that the location has been selected and she will provide more information at the next meeting.

b) Rio Grande School – 6th Grade Classroom Visit and Exchange
Dr. Case and Ms. Bystrom visited Rio Grande School and made a presentation to the 5th and 6th graders on the City of Santa Fe Sister Cities. There was a dynamic exchange of conversation and visual experiences as the students did extensive research and presented to Dr. Case and Ms. Bystrom information on our sister cities. The students asked if staff and committee members spoke the languages for all sister cities. Ms. Bystrom was pleased to say that our committee members know the languages and with a recent use of Google language it was a great tool. The students wanted to know about a student sister city exchange. One question to the students was if they visited other countries what types of gifts they would take, they were asked if they had passports and a good amount of them had passports. These young students were well travelled.

for each sister cities and include Lauren Komer in this discussion

6. Report of Acting Chair – Rudy Fernandez

a. San Miguel de Allende Update
Ms. Bystrom announced that the trip of San Miguel de Allende has been postponed. They will come to Santa Fe in July, 2015 when we have Folk Market.

7. Committee Updates

a. Mr. Rubenstein talked about his meeting with the Mandela School and a possible trip to Holguin. There was an exchange of information on contacts for teachers and Tony Gerlicz, Principal for the Mandela School is very enthusiastic about a trip to Cuba. There are a number of teachers from Spain teaching at the schools, one of their children is very interested in Sister City School involvement.

Mr. Rubenstein said he had sent photos from Mexico showing the San Jose Tree Planting, commemorating 50 years of planting a tree. Mr. Rubenstein would like to see continued conversation on the tree project.

Mr. Rubenstein reported on a project working with UNM – Honors College. Mr. Rubenstein also wrote a letter to the Editor – quote: Cha Cha Cha – and provided the details on the article where he also noted recognition for the Sister Cities program.

Ling Tong: Wrote to Zhang Jia Jai to discuss a sister cities school relationship. It was recommended that Ms. Bystrom send a letter from the city to Zhang Jia Jai; Ms. Tong will draft the letter to send. Tony Gerlicz /Michael (Contact in Zhang Jia Jai). Who should be contacted? A letter was recently crafted by Ms. Tong from Mayor Gonzales and a response was received.

Dr. Case contacted Tony Gerlicz on behalf of the San Miguel School. Mr. Gerlicz is interested in San Miguel as well as New Mexico School for the Arts and Desert Academy.

Ms. Bystrom asked Dr. Case to talk to a Spanish teacher at Rio Grande school who is interested in a Santa Fe Spain school relationship.

The Chair is at the National Sister City Conference in Washington, DC. Dr. Case and the Chair attended the big dinner at Osteria and said it was well attended.

Dr. Case and the Chair are going to Livingston, South Africa latter part of June to see what opportunities are available.

Cathy Magni: Italian Film Festival was very successful.

Kim Song: Talked about a future trip to Incheon; it is not an official visit from Santa Fe. Ms. Bystrom asked if Ms. Song would assist with communications with Incheon and she responded yes.

Arthur Olivas: Working on a date to do a ceremonial tea. He is working on the final stages of the Santa Fe JIN celebration at the Convention Center titled Matsuri and will take place March 28, 2015. Mr. Olivas said that he also has worked with Tony Gerlicz. Mr. Olivas is also looking for his pictures of the tree in Tsuyama that they dedicated to share with the committee members.

Rudy Fernandez: Has been in contact with the Mayor in Parral, Mexico and they have agreed to attend the Santa Fe Fiesta on September 10, 11, 12, 13 - 2015. A formal letter of invitation should be sent to them from the Mayor.

8. **Other Items**
   Dr. Case provided a reminder and asked if we would be sending any youth representatives to the annual National Youth Conference in July in Washington, DC. Ms. Bystrom noted that a stipend could not be issued from the city to the individuals if they attended. Dr. Case said that this topic should be included in our strategic planning session. Ms. Bystrom will have this conversation with the Chair as a future topic of discussion. Dr. Case said that the annual conference is almost always in July.

9. **Adjournment**
   There being no further business to come before the Sister Cities Committee, the meetings was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Signature Page

Rudy Fernandez, Acting Chair	**Fran Lucero, Stenographer**