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SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

TOURISM Santa Fe Administrative Conference Room

Santa Fe Community Convention Center

4:00 – 5:00pm

505-955-6707

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2017
4. Report of Chair – Carol Robertson Lopez
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Bukhara, Uzbekistan
 - b. Holguin, Cuba
 - c. Icheon, South Korea
 - d. Livingstone, Zambia
 - e. Parral, Mexico
 - f. San Miguel de Allende, Mexico
 - g. Santa Fe de La Vega, Spain\
 - h. Sorrento, Italy
 - i. Tsuyama, Japan
 - j. Zhangjiajie, China
6. Adjourn

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 Wednesday, August 9, 2017
 TOURISM Santa Fe Administrative Conference Room
 Santa Fe Community Convention Center

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Sister Cities Committee Minutes

August 9, 2017

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Goals of the Sister Cities Committee

- More effectively market Sister Cities and what they do
- Develop educational programs in schools
- Strengthen relationships with existing Sister Cities
- Involve greater community in work and activities of Sister Cities
- Re-enforce and build existing relationships through trade and tourism efforts

1. CALL TO ORDER

Sister Cities Committee meeting was called to order by the Chair, Carol Robertson Lopez at 4:00 pm in the Administrative Conference Room, Tourism Santa Fe. A quorum is reflected under roll call.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Carol Robertson-López, Chair
Dr. Jeff Case
Rudy Fernandez
Bernard Rubenstein
Ling Tong

Not Present:

Gilbert Delgado [excused]
Carl Moore
Arthur Olivas
Clara Padilla-Andrews

Others Present:

Jacqueline Beam, Staff Liaison
Carl Boaz, Stenographer

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Rubenstein moved to approve the agenda as presented, Member Case seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 14, 2017

Member Rubenstein noted an error on page 3 and asked that it be deleted.

Mr. Fernandez moved to approve the minutes of June 14, 2017 as amended. Member Rubenstein seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. REPORT OF CHAIR - Carol Robertson López

Chair Robertson López pointed out that in this troubled world, the role of this Committee is more important than ever. We are the future for a peaceful world.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Chair Robertson-López reported. On their visit, she invited them to her house to cook lamb. They came in like an army and took all the lamb she bought and prepared it in the back yard. It was a wonderful meal and at 3 minutes to 8 they said they had to leave. They even wanted to wash the dishes. It really tightened our bonds with Bukhara. Our relationship is extremely good.

They were happy with their sales, except for one who made cradles. So, we have a baby cradle now. The design is not what American's typically use. It is lower to the ground when we have them high up. The rest of the sales went well.

She added that we will have a new ambassador appointed soon.

b. Holguin, Cuba

Member Rubenstein is returning in January for concerts. They are excited to have him there to work with musicians. He double checked to see what is going on with travel. None of the Trump bans have gone into effect so he can go as a professional and his grandson will go as a student. So, the changes are tied up in the bureaucracy. It won't be a long visit because he and his wife are going to Columbia. The concert is on January 21. It will be about two weeks ahead of that.

Chair Robertson-López said we should have a letter from Mayor Gonzales to the Mayor of Holguin.

Member Rubenstein said he has all the things from last time when it got canceled but he will take another letter.

c. Icheon, South Korea

Member Case went but Chair Robertson-López reported. The Mayor came here for Folk Art Festival, but she had to be at the Sister Cities national meeting. So, Member Case took the delegation everywhere.

There was great support from Staff and Debra. The mayor stayed in the hacienda. They had dinner with rice from Icheon Korea which she got when they visited there. Icheon is the best rice producer in Korea. So, they came home with rice in their bags. Opening dinner was a great success. Next day, they met with Mayor Gonzales at La Fonda. Frank Montañó did the bus tour. She took them to the Botanical Gardens. She has been asked to be on the Botanical Gardens Board and informed them that the Committee would like honor their sister city and the Botanical Garden Board is going to do that. We might want to expand it for other sister cities.

Member Rubenstein would love to plant an indigenous tree.

Chair Robertson-López described the national program just after World War II when foreign governments started providing trees to the US. A cherry tree came from Japan. They had blight in Japan and they reestablished the species from the Washington DC cherry tree seeds. It has become more difficult with tree viruses. It was impossible to bring vegetation from Bukhara.

Member Rubenstein suggested having a plaque.

Chair Robertson-López asked Ms. Beam to follow up that suggestion.

Member Rubenstein said Holguin is known as the "City of Parks."

Chair Robertson-López continued describing their visit. They went to the folk art festival. Saturday for Sister Cities, they had sushi for lunch. A woman with them is a Korean chef and provided them with an amazing meal. Saturday night was at the Santa Fe Opera where they had dinner. The next morning, they got up early and they left and went back to Korea.

Rotary is very big in Icheon. We got the exchange program going. They have money to help support it. The big regional Rotary people attended that meeting. The bad news is that Mayor Jo is finishing his third term and started something that required all teachers to rotate out after three years. So, two key people, when they got back, found out they were being rotated. Mayor Jo was thrilled with his visit here and complimented them.

Member Tong liked the idea for the Botanical Garden as effective and promotional. Planting a tree is good. It is a practical way to carry on the relationship.

Member Case said he emailed for more information beforehand. They have a Pine tree that could be dedicated to Icheon. We can't dedicate a big area just to Icheon and should include other sister cities so Chair Robertson-López needs to meet with Leticia for the plaque. It needs good wordsmithing. We might wait for a delegation and plant the tree at the time they are here.

Member Rubenstein thought they could use a poet from Santa Fe to incorporate it into a beautifully written document.

Member Tong asked if it is a big tree.

Member Case said there is a ten-foot pine growing there now. It is a great location and slightly elevated. He was not sure all ten sister cities could fit in that space so they might have to have something adjacent.

Chair Robertson-López asked to put Botanical Garden on the next agenda to explore it further. She noted that Santa Fe has Koreans here. One is an attorney with Peter Ives' firm. She has been asked to help start a Rotary Club in Uzbekistan.

d. Livingstone, Zambia

There was no update on Livingstone, Zambia. But it was noted that Clovis wants to send an ambulance to Zambia. We've been writing but it is hard with their switch of mayor. They have no municipal court because it is such a new democracy. They don't have institutional memory when a new mayor comes in. We hope we can get it going. We try to interrelate with groups in all of Africa to keep it going.

Member Case mentioned an African festival coming up in September. Chair Robertson-López asked Ms. Beam to have the festival put on the next agenda.

Member Case said it will be at the Railyard and it is growing every year.

e. Parral, Mexico

Member Fernandez reported the mayor wanted to come for Indian Market with four people so he contacted the Mayor because too many are coming for the market. But they were somehow able to get two rooms at the Inn of the Governors. So, it is the Mayor and three others but they have not confirmed their reservations and he cannot hold them any longer. Mayor Gonzales can have breakfast with them. But at this point, he was going to have to tell them we have to cancel. Maybe they could come for Fiesta but he won't be here for it. He agreed to let Ms. Beam know on Monday.

f. San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

This report was deferred.

g. Santa Fe de La Vega, Spain

Chair Robertson-López said she and her husband went to Casa Sena for their anniversary last week. The server, whose name was Fernando, was from Granada. He is willing to do cooking classes.

Member Case said it was a very nice connection.

Chair Robertson-López added that he had heard about the Sister City connection. The other
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connection is that Marco Serna, the new D.A. has a brother who was with us last time we were there. She believed that in the next year, we can get things going again. Member Delgado has been working on that. Member Delgado's stroke took a lot out of him.

h. Sorrento, Italy

There was no report on Sorrento.

i. Tsuyama, Japan

Chair Robertson-López met with Japanese Consul in New York. Mr. Olivas has talked repeatedly about doing it. We need to jump start it. A lot of those things happened right after WWI to find peace between the countries. We haven't gone there for ten years but Monte del Sol has maintained connection.

j. Zhangjlajie, China

Member Tong reported the sister cities were used for government officials to have a vacation so it was given a bad name. Now a lot of government officials are not granted a passport to get out of the country. That is why we haven't heard anything. There is speculation but she has not heard from the people. She will try again to make contact.

Chair Robertson-López met with the US ambassador to China and had hoped to get the relationship going. She agreed to email him again.

Member Case said there is a new Principal at Mandela School. He wanted to approach the headmaster and see if we could start student exchanges like Monte del Sol does.

Member Rubenstein asked if the school teaches Mandarin.

Member Case agreed.

Member Tong thought they could have a teacher come here.

Member Case thought they could arrange it if we could get air fare from Shanghai to Zhangjlajie. When we took mariachis, we just stayed one night there.

Chair Robertson-López wanted for the students to see Shanghai buildings at night. They turn off all the lights at 10 pm.

Member Rubenstein briefly talked about student exchanges in Columbia.

Member Fernandez left at 4:57.

Chair Robertson-López said they have a couple of action items.

She asked Ms. Beam to tell the Committee about herself and her expertise.

Chair Robertson-López asked to have the vision statement on the agenda.

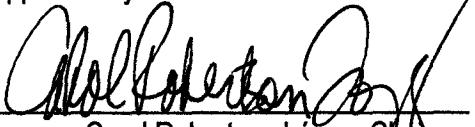
Ms. Beam agreed to do that.

6. Adjourn

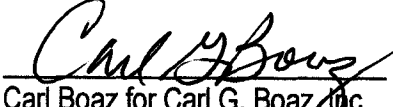
Member Rubenstein moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Tong seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Approved by:


Carol Robertson López, Chair

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz for Carl G. Boaz, Inc.