



# Agenda

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## SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

City Councilors' Conference Room

200 Lincoln Avenue

4:00 p.m.

955-6707

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Approval of Minutes
  - a. February 15, 2012
- IV. Committees Reports
- V. Report of the Liaison
- VI. Report of Chair
  - a. Status/Opinions of Sorrento visit
  - b. Status San Miguel Allende
  - c. Students from Instituto de Hispanidad; exchanges from St. Michael's High School due in April
- VII. Other Business
- VI. Adjournment

\* Persons with disabilities in need of accommodations, contact the City Clerk's Office at 955-6520, five (5) working days prior to meeting date.

**Index Summary of Minutes  
Santa Fe Sister Cities Committee  
March 21, 2012**

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<b>Call to Order</b>	Call to Order by Chair Gilbert Delgado at 4:0 pm – City Councilor’s Conference Room	2
<b>Roll Call</b>	Roll call indicated a quorum.	2
<b>Approval of the Agenda</b>	<i>Ms. Robertson Lopez moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Rubenstein, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2
<b>Approval of Minutes – February 15, 2012</b>	<i>Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2012 as presented, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	2
<b>Committee Reports</b> a. Cuba b. Sorrento c. Japan d. Uzbekistan	Informational	2-4
<b>Staff Liaison Report</b>	<i>Informational</i>	4
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<b>Other Business</b>	Informational	6
<b>Adjournment</b>	<i>Mr. Rubenstein moved to adjourn at 5:30 pm, second by Mr. Olivas, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.</i>	6

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## SANTA FE SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

City Councilors' Conference Room

200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico

4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

### I. Call to Order

#### A. Roll Call

##### **Present**

Gilbert L. Delgado, Chair

Daniel Anthony

Bernard Rubenstein

Carol Robertson Lopez

Arthur Olivas

Kim Song, Alternate

##### **Not Present**

Rudy Fernandez

Ling Tong, Alternate

Gilbert Romero

##### **Others Present:**

Julie Bystrom, Staff Liaison

Fran Lucero, Stenographer

### II. Approval of Agenda

Discussion: The Chair asked about excused absences for quorum purposes. More detail under the Report of the Chair.

*Ms. Robertson Lopez moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Mr. Rubenstein, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

#### **Approval of Minutes**

##### a. February 15, 2012

*Mr. Rubenstein moved to approve the minutes of February 15, 2012, second by Mr. Anthony, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.*

### IV. Committee Reports

Mr. Rubenstein reported that the Cuba committee has been very active. Members from the Cuba committee (Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Duncan) made a visit to Holguin and brought back gifts to the City of Santa Fe which is displayed in City Hall. Our Cuba

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representatives took greetings from Santa Fe, NM to Cuba. They also brought back name and information for the current contacts from Holguin for continued communications.

Mr. Rubenstein is also discussing the opportunity to do a concert for their 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Their concert hall has been renovated which is of great pride for the city of Holguin. There will be a lot of activities this week in Cuba as the Pope is visiting the city by Santiago to visit the black Virgin location.

Mr. Rubenstein has also met with a woman here in Santa Fe who is in charge of cultural exchange trips to Holguin. He will stay in communication with her to see if there are opportunities for group travel.

There is a wonderful film, Chico and Rita and CCA has invited us to the viewing. It is Friday, March 30th, invitations to follow.

The Sister City website was hacked when in Cuba and Mr. Rubenstein asked if the committee could resend any and all information or e-mails to him. His complete outlook box was lost, i.e., contacts, e-mails, documents, etc.

### Dan Anthony: Sorrento, Italy

Mr. Anthony stated that the only update was the information from the Chair communicating with Mr. Antonino and the chance of them travelling to Santa Fe in July. Mr. Anthony has not heard from Mr. Antonino directly. The Chair and Mr. Antonino have communicated by e-mail to discuss a possible event and it was unfortunate that due to the economy they could not do one or commit at this time. The Chair thought if it was at all possible they could invite Mr. Antonino, offer him housing and possibly assist with travel expenses. After Mr. Antonino had a discussion with their Mayor it was communicated that they thought he and a group of other individuals from Italy might visit during the Folk Art Festival. To date no updates are available. Mr. Rubenstein asked that Mr. Anthony be sent copies of the e-mails in order to be apprised of the discussions between the Chair and Mr. Antonino in order to help and coordinate as much as possible.

Mr. Anthony will keep the committee informed if anyone is coming from Sorrento. It was noted that Ms. Robertson Lopez is on the board for the Folk Art Festival.

### Arthur Olivas – Japan

Mr. Olivas has been in contact with Monte del Sol School. They are in the process of trying to raise some money so the School Master and Assistant can go to Tsuyama in September. Mr. Olivas is also in discussion with his contact in Tsuyama to arrange a meeting to discuss the possibility of a Sister City School should this trip become a reality this year. If they don't get the money they will continue their efforts to fund raise and go next year.

### Carol Robertson Lopez – Uzbekistan

She is in contact with her country representatives and they are excited about coming for the Folk Art Festival. Ms. Robertson Lopez encourages Mr. Olivas to apply for the grant

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that is available from the International Sister Cities Association for travel to Japan. She attended the Sister City Meeting and she would like very much to nominate our Sister City program. The Sister City annual conference will be in San Antonio next year.

## **V. Staff Liaison Report**

### **a. Julie Bystrom - Update on Sister Cities Activities**

Budget process has been completed. With the figures received she requested \$17,500 for Sister Cities for next year which is a conservative amount. Ms. Bystrom feels that this is our year to bring Sister Cities to our community in a hearty manner. Last year we did not request funds we rolled over what we had from the previous FY. If there is money left we will request a roll over when the timeline is approved to move forward. Ms. Bystrom has been very successful in merging funds to the next year when possible.

Ms. Bystrom met with Dorothy Massey from Collective Works who has offered an abundance of books to possibly do a book exchange and developing an opera with a school exchange. Mr. Rubenstein was asked if he could take them to Cuba. What could be tricky is that there is a religious implication from the book but he would research the opportunity. Ms. Bystrom also made reference to three other countries that might be able to do a school exchange. An additional inquiry will be made through the Opera to pursue ideas on how to get this book turned over in to a program. Mr. Rubenstein said he is interested and would like to explore the opportunities. [Note: It is about 40-50 books]

Update on a February call to the Mayor from a delegation in Ukraine. They were interested in a sister city relationship and Julie spoke to them briefly. Julie provided them information on friendship cities and establishing this friendship city to start the protocol. We asked for a letter from the Mayor of their city and a video. Ms. Robertson Lopez also talked to their Interpreter and feels that a Friendship City is the way to start the relationship. We can list Friendship Cities just as we do Sister Cities.

Mr. Olivas feels that as we enhance the Guidelines for Sister City Relationships we should ask for a packet from those city/country that have interest and we in turn would send them information from the City of Santa Fe to open our lines of communication.

The Chair did express the concern that our collateral would be in English.

## **VI. Report from the Chair**

### **a. Roll Call – Excused vs. Not Present**

Who excuses the member? Are there any replacements? Can Alternates vote?

The Chair recommended that an official letter be sent to a member who misses more than 3 meetings consecutively without calling and we ask for a resignation in order to get representation to make a quorum.

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If a local country Sister City Member sends an Alternate, it is approved representation. Ms. Song can participate and can vote when there is a quorum.

Mr. Rubenstein asked if the Alternates have been replaced. Ms. Bystrom informed the committee that we have one opening. The Chair also informed the committee that some of the Alternates have also asked to become full fledged members.

- b. Discussion: Ling Tong is very interested in setting up a meeting with the Superintendent of SFPS before the transition takes place. The Chair is working together with Ms. Tong to get this accomplished.
- c. Protocol Follow Up: Ms. Bystrom is working on this document and will keep the committee posted as it progresses.
- d. Status / Opinions of Sorrento visit  
(Report under Committee Report by Mr. Anthony)
- e. Status San Miguel Allende  
The Chair did a letter on the Mayor's behalf to the Mayor in San Miguel Allende. The Mayor said that one of the Councilors is very interested in San Miguel Allende and will be travelling there.

Update on Resolution or Sister City Relationship: We have many resolutions for many cities and we do have a formal resolution signed by the Mayor/City Council for San Miguel Allende. Mr. Olivas asked if that resolution would still be in effect and the Chair said yes. His recollection is that they made multiple attempts to contact the representatives from San Miguel Allende and they never responded or showed interest to continue a sister city relationship with the City of Santa Fe. The Chair said it is different now; we have three sister cities who have sent their affirmations and he feels that what is needed now from San Miguel Allende is an affirmation. Our Councilor will take the formal documents to get the official affirmation done. Ms. Robertson Lopez shared enlightening news that there are a lot of Santa Fe community (resident) ties to San Miguel Allende that could make this relationship happen.

Ms. Song asked again, how does one go about selecting a sister city? She understands that we are not proactive in soliciting a relationship with other countries. As a committee do we wait for the request to come to us? For example, Korea or other Asian Countries, we don't have any sister city relationship. Ichon could be a good culturally beneficial sister city relationship for Santa Fe. The Chair said that they have a good sense of how many official Sister Cities we should have and the Mayor is not ready to expand those relationships. The Mayor is more open to the engagement of Friendship Cities vs. a full fledged Sister City. It is also very important to have a local supportive group for any friendship and/or sister city relationship that we enter in to. The Mayor has expressed a great interest in Korea and has travelled there. If the Mayor of the city wants to establish a relationship and supports it, that might when this Committee would also be supportive. If the city

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established a strategic partnership, the Sister City Committee could be involved at that level.

- f. Students from Instituto de Hispanidad; exchanges from St. Michael's High School due in April.

We have the two students from Spain enrolled at St. Michael's High School. Our two students are working through the VISA process for this exchange. The relationship is very positive and the Teacher at St. Mike's is from Spain. The Chair would like to invite members of the Committee to meet the students.

### **VII. Other Business**

Mr. Olivas said that at the last meeting leading up to the Japan event, he met a couple who asked about a possible relationship in Korea. This couple had some suggestions and they would be willing to sponsor an event here in Santa Fe if Kwangju was the city considered as they had resided there. Ms. Song said that Ichon would be a better cultural choice.

A Statewide Sister City relationship with Vietnam has been established through the work of Mr. Baca. Ms. Robertson Lopez would like to host a meeting in Santa Fe for the next Statewide Sister City meeting.

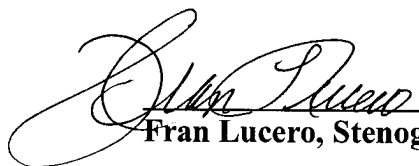
### **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Sister Cities Committee, Mr. Rubenstein made a motion to adjourn at 5:30 pm, second by Mr. Olivas, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Signature Page:**

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**Gilbert Delgado, Chair**



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**Fran Lucero, Stenographer**