

MINUTES FOR THE
Sister Cities ADVISORY BOARD
July 5th, 2023
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
City County Building - Cannon Room

1. **Roll Call:** The following members of the Sister Cities Advisory Board were present:

- John Wilson
- Ricardo Beccera
- Joe Zeidner
- Nicole Pessetto
- Mattie Mortensen
- Annie Quan
- Ahimara Suarez
- Olga Efimova
- Sheri Sorensen (Online)

The following members of the Sister Cities Advisory Board were absent:

- Ross Chambless
- Missy Greis

Also Present:

- Sean Huang - International Peace Garden Academy
- Steven Lemon - International Peace Garden Academy
- Katherine Matheson - Department of Economic Development
- Joshua Paluh - Department of Economic Development

2. **Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved without amendments.

3. **Briefings by the Staff:**

Updates on Sister Cities:

1. Chernivtsi, Ukraine: No updates were reported.
2. Izhevsk, Russia:
 - a. Efimova shared that a nursing college in Izhevsk, is interested in a Health Care Class through the University of Utah. Wilson inquired about sending them supplies, but it is not currently possible.
3. Keelung, Taiwan:

- a. Huang is interested in joining the board. Keelung is not visiting this summer, but may potentially visit in 2024-25.
- 4. Matsumoto, Japan:
 - a. The Japanese Delegation Visit is scheduled, and the board will be involved in various events, including a proclamation ceremony, a Climate Change Panel at the University of Utah, and a dinner at Squatters Brewery.
- 5. Torino, Italy:
 - a. Conversations about student exchange, innovation, sport, and tech are ongoing after city staff Matheson and Paluh met with Torino city staff.
- 6. Trujillo, Peru:
 - a. Beccera, Matheson, Paluh met with community member Juanita, who is planning a cultural event in August. Ricardo needed a space for 70 dancers to practice, and options like Publik Event Space and FairGrounds were discussed.
 - b. Beccera is trying to get in contact with the firefighter chief in Trujillo. Beccera would like a seal that can be placed on his emails for official business

4. **Business:**

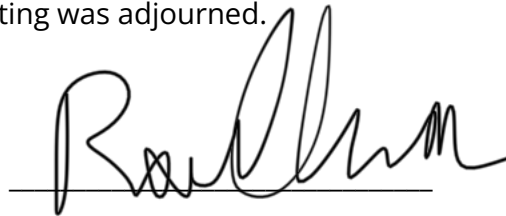
- 1. The Advisory Committee:
 - a. The board agreed to explore the possibility of forming an advisory committee. Further conversations and proposals will be made to determine the best course of action.
- 2. Planning:
 - a. Zeidner says we need to discuss more directly the direction the board wants to go with future meetings.
 - b. Matheson will send San Antonio's strategic plan for reference.
 - c. Zeidner prompts the question: How do we address interest in the sister city program?
 - d. Quan stated the board should value-map current cities - "we have four cities that reach cultural goals but only one that reaches economic."
- 3. Review Primary and Secondary City Preferences:
 - a. Members shared their primary and secondary city preferences.
- 4. Google Folder:
 - a. Issues with accessing the Google folder were noted, and members will be contacted by city staff to update their email addresses.
- 5. New Board Member Process:
 - a. The process for adding new board members was discussed, and one board member will join staff members in the interview process. Quan volunteered to join the interview committee.

6. District 2 and 7 Representation:
 - a. It was noted by city staff that District 2 and 7 currently do not have board members, and efforts need to be made to fill these positions.
7. Youth Representation:
 - a. Non-voting positions will be available for youth members aged 15-18.
8. Timing of Meetings:
 - a. The frequency of meetings was discussed, and it was decided to meet once a month until the end of the year.
 - b. Meetings will now be an hour and a half long, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm.
9. Public Comment:
 - a. Lemon asked for support for funding International Peace Gardens Academy and provided information about petitions and emails.

Adjournment:

Wilson motioned to adjourn the meeting, and all members present voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Chambless', written over a horizontal line.

Ross Chambless, Chairperson

This document and the recording constitute the official minutes of the Economic Development Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting held on July 5th, 2023.
