

MINUTES FOR THE
Sister Cities ADVISORY BOARD
Date: September 6th, 2023
Time: 5:00PM-6:30PM

1. **Roll Call**

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

- Ross Chambless
- John Wilson
- Matilyn Mortensen
- Joe Zeidner (Online)
- Nicole Pessetto (Online)
- Ricardo Becerra
- Annie Quan

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

- Sheri Sorenson
- Missy Greis
- Olga Efimova
- Ahimara Suarez

Also Present:

- Katie Matheson - Economic Development
- Joshua Paluh - Economic Development

2. **Approval of the Minutes**

Chambless approved the meeting minutes from 8/4/23. Wilson seconds approval of minutes.

3. **Briefings by the Staff**

a. Updates on Sister Cities:

- i. Chernivtsi, Ukraine: Sorenson is absent but gave a message to Matheson to share about her work with Ukrainian refugees.
 1. Sorenson helped hold a fundraising concert as well as an event for Ukrainian Independence Day to raise money for refugees. Sorenson asks for help finding housing and employment for refugees as well as helping them write resumes and going to interviews with them to find work. As well any suggestions to get the community involved. Matheson will have Sorenson contact board with info about the help being requested.
- ii. Izhevsk, Russia:
 1. Matheson gives an update. Have not been able to get in contact with Efimova recently. Wilson states that we are limited in what we can do with Izhevsk due to conflict. Wilson proposes that we send a letter to Izhevsk to share that we support the people and peace between people. Board writes it and then sends it to other sister cities and see if they are interested in joining. Wilson proposes having a draft for the next meeting. Zeidner asks Matheson if the city's attorney's office has to check it. Matheson says the mayor's team will have to look at it and an attorney potentially may need to be looked at. Wilson will start a draft.
- iii. Keelung, Taiwan:
 1. Quan gives an update. The subcommittee started brainstorming about city connections. Margaret Yee is going to stay on as an advisory board member and the subcommittee is interested in going to lunch with her to discuss the past relationships.
- iv. Matsumoto, Japan:
 1. Chambless gives an update from the subcommittee meeting. Paluh and Chambless discussed the potential of a healthcare information exchange as well as a student penpal exchange
 2. Matheson gives an update that the mayor's office received a letter from Mayor Gaun saying they were happy with visit and would like the mayor to join them in Matsumoto next year
- v. Torino, Italy:

1. Updates given by Pessetto. There are no updates. Pessetto would like to meet as a subcommittee before she contacts the mayor's team in Torino.

vi. Trujillo, Peru:

1. Becerra gives updates. Becerra would like to schedule a subcommittee meeting. Juanita Paucar had a successful event. Becerra asks Matheson to get her the LDS church contact.
2. The mayor of a town in Cusco, Peru, asks about getting warm clothes for winter. Chambless asks Becerra if they would be willing to send a letter to Salt Lake City to share their request for help. Becerra says yes. Before they do that, Becerra needs to find out if there is anyone that can help with such a project.
3. Becerra has no updates on the fire department relationship.
4. Becerra says he has a friend who is an archeologist and director of a museum in Peru. They are interested in sharing their art/artifacts for display in Salt Lake City. This museum is government owned and needs to know that this exchange is serious and legitimate. Becerra would like to find out if this is possible through the city, university or other resources. Chambless says it would be best to have a letter from them with info that would be best to share with the city government. Quan agrees and says we need more logistical information to make this possible. The city's museums, potentially the Lenardo, is considered by the board to be an appropriate location and contact for Becerra to start with.

Events: No events reported

4. Business

- Matheson update. Wilson and Chambless will be joining subcommittee meetings where new member applications are reviewed. This is so there are more board members than staff on application meetings. Quan discusses the importance of hiring new members that fit skill sets. Look at geographic location first and then if they fit a certain skill set. We need someone with attorney, accountant experience, etc.
- Chambless and Matheson discuss designating representatives for Sister Cities. Board needs to partner with city staff in communications going forward. Matheson says after speaking with the Economic Development Director and city's attorney's

office, if there is a diplomatic door that needs to be opened, it needs to start with staff. If you are having conversations related to sister cities relationships, staff need to be cc'd on emails. Staff don't want to direct conversations, but we need to be able to report to the mayor's office with info. The sister cities board is an advisory board to the mayor.

- Matheson requests board members refer to website to show that they are official members of the sister city board:
<https://www.slc.gov/boards/boards-commissions/sister-cities-advisory-board/>
Paluh will share with the board and will add board member names to the older sister city site.
- If any official gifts or letters are given, Matheson states they need to come from board members, city staff, or official partners like the World Trade Center.
- Paluh shows both websites and the work that needs done. City staff and bandwidth are limited. Board is interested in donating time to work on the website. Matheson and Paluh will communicate with IMS on how to move forward and if the board could have access to the edit site.
- Matheson/Chambless update - We are planning to gather all this information we discuss in the subcommittee meetings/board meetings and build a larger plan for the program. We had discussed a strategic plan, but instead we may start smaller and take simple next steps for these cities. We are also waiting to see what the city puts together for the Olympics and then we may base our future plans on the direction they are heading.
- Paluh checks the emails of members and does an update on google drive files.
- Matheson mentions that we have board seats opening in district 2 and 7 and youth member spots.

Public Comment:

No public comment

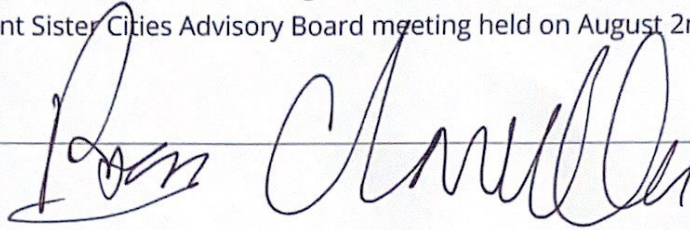
5. Adjournment

Chambless motions to adjourn. Wilson second.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ross Chambless, Chairperson

This document and the recording constitute the official minutes of the Economic Development Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting held on August 2nd, 2023.

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

11/1/2023