

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

Roll Call

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

- John Wilson
- Annie Quan
- Missy Greis
- Nicole Pessetto
- Ross Chambless

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

- Ricardo Becerra
- Matilyn Mortensen
- Sheri Sorenson
- Olga Efimova
- Ahimara Suarez
- Joe Zeidner

Also Present:

- Michelle Mooney
- Ashley Cleveland
- Steven Lemmon (Joined 5:45 p.m.)

1. **Approval of the Minutes**

Nicole asks for amendments on typo and change in regards to Torino update. Paluh updates the Minutes. Chambless motions to approve. Quan seconds.

Public Comment:

Chair Chambless reads an email letter from member of the public, Steven Lemmon. Letter available on the Public Notice website.

No additional public comment was shared.

Staff Report:

- Matheson introduces Michelle Mooney and Ashley Cleveland from the mayor's office. Mooney and Matheson connected and saw similarities between Sister Cities board and the board the Mooney staff's, The Human Rights Commission and the Racial Equity and Police Commission.
- Mooney states that there is overlap between commissions as they both work with police as well as work with international partners related to human rights.
- Cleveland shares that she helps assist board and commission managers with training and information and wanted to let the board know that she is willing to help the board if need be.
- Matheson shares that the Bylaws will not be voted on because of staff error. They were not included in the agenda prior to the meeting.
- Mathesons starts discussion on new board member selection and hands off update to Quan. Quan shares that Greis met with Sarah Real and Sarah Young and they received contacts with education experience. Quan and Greis would like to nominate Jane Kim as a board member. Jane Kim moved to Salt Lake City 13 years ago. She's a Korean American. Went to Harvard, played hockey at Harvard. She served on multiple boards including Girls on the Run.
- Greis shares that she is resigning from the Sister Cities Board and Kim would take her spot in District 3. Kim is interested but they also have two other candidates if she does not accept.
- Matheson shares that the Annual Report is in progress with the Ad Hoc committee. The committee met for the first time. The committee includes Board Chair Chambless, Vice Chair Wilson, Staff, and Sorenson.
- Cleveland shares that if anyone is having issues with the annual report template, to reach out. Matheson will share the Annual Report with Cleveland for any additional advice on the template.

2. **Briefings by the Staff**

a. Updates on Sister Cities:

i. Chernivtsi, Ukraine:

1. Sheri was not present. Wilson had nothing to add. Matheson shares that Sheri was working to have a booth at a Christmas market, but not present to share. Staff and Ukraine subcommittee will be meeting with Amy Genevieve Kozak who reached out to staff and would like to “discuss a current effort and a second still underway concerning your sister city in Ukraine.” Updates will be given to the board at the January meeting.
2. Chambless would like to do a follow up with staff with Oksana Omel, who works with Ukrainian refugees in Salt Lake City. She reached out to staff about having issues with refugees acquiring drivers licenses and advanced English courses.

ii. Izhevsk, Russia:

1. No updates

iii. Keelung, Taiwan:

1. Quan and Mortensen plan to reconnect with Margaret Yee and scan her historical documents for city archives. Matheson asks Mooney if she could help with the police connection with Keelung as her commission has worked with the city policy department. Mooney states she will reach out to Lieutenant Andrew Cluff. Mooney asks if the Sister Cities Board has reached out to the police department yet. Matheson states no. Mooney said she would be happy to help make that connection and will follow up with Matheson. Matheson and Mooney will schedule a meeting in January to discuss.

iv. Matsumoto, Japan:

1. Matheson shares that there was a virtual student exchange between Matsumoto and Salt Lake City. This student exchange was run by a third party organization and was initiated by a Matsumoto school district. The first exchange occurred on December 6th, 2023. The Department of Economic Development provided pizza for the event. It was successful. 8-10 students from Salt Lake City School District took part and shared similarities and differences between their schools.

Matheson will share photos if she receives them from the school district. There will be a second exchange on January 20th. Matheson and Paluh will be attending as well as possible subcommittee member Chambless. This is not open to the public. Chambless asks if Matheson can reach out to Matsumoto contacts to see if they can share their experience putting on this event.

v. Torino, Italy:

1. Pessetto shares that there has been no new communication from Torino mayor staff. Matheson shares that she has no new communication with staff from Torino. Matheson is going to try again to contact them and share that Mayor Mendenhall won reelection and the Olympics may be returning to Salt Lake.
2. Pessetto shares that a book with historical images of Torino and Salt Lake relationship will not be accessible. The owner of the book is moving. However there is a Facebook group called "Torino Salt Lake City Exchange" that the board may be able to get images from. Paluh will look into this.

vi. Trujillo, Peru:

1. Matheson shares that conversation about firefighter exchange with the Salt Lake City Fire Department and Peru FireFighters continues and April is still on the table for an exchange with Peru. The exchange was placed on hold for a few weeks as staff needed to contact Peru's Congress on who Salt Lake is training in said exchange. The member of congress did verbally confirm, but also is sending a letter. A member of Salt Lake staff was in Peru and was able to receive the letter. Once staff receives the letter, planning will continue.

Events: No events reported

3. Business

Matheson shares progress on the annual report. Board reviews Goals and Priorities for 2023. Matheson adds "Annual Planning" to In Progress Goals. Matheson and Chambless ask that board members revise their subcommittee sections that are in

folders on Google Drive and add comments of changes that need to be made. Matheson asks that edits only be made on their subcommittee folder. This follows OPMA regulation. Edits need to be made by board by December 30th. Chambless, Wilson, and staff will do a full review after edits are made.

Chambless discusses a letter from board to city leadership and asks the board to review. Board reviews together. Pessetto asks her name be changed from Gallo to Pessetto on letter. Mooney suggests that signatures be included from the Board Chair and Vice Chair. Matheson will check internally if staff can put letterhead on the board letter. Matheson will work with Chambless and Wilson to make sure the letter is sent to both Mayor and City Council Members.

Wilson motions to approve the letter. Greis seconds the letter. Board approves the letter to be sent.

Chambless acknowledges that a member of the public, Steven Lemmon is present on the Zoom call. Chambless lets Lemmon know that their email letter was read at the beginning of the meeting and that public comment had been moved to the beginning of the meeting.

4. Adjournment

Chambless brings the meeting to a close. Pessetto motions to adjourn. Wilson seconds. All are in favor of adjourning.

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 December 6th, 2023.
