



Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County (SCA of SWC)

March 4, 2009, 4:00pm

Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: George Whitehead, Chair; Paula Morris, Vice Chair; Gina Boobar, Secretary; Eli Bulla; Cindy Feist; Robert Williams; Derek Wu; and Hong Yao.

I. George Whitehead called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes of 2/4/09 Meeting

George Whitehead made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2009, meeting. Eli Bulla seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report / Update on Fundraising

In Dr. Boger's absence, Cindy Feist of the Chamber of Commerce gave the Treasurer's report. To date, \$1,125 has been received in donations. \$510 was expended (Sister Cities Intl. dues). Balance is \$615. Also, 10% of all donations will be kept by the Chamber for their account management fee.

IV. Next Steps

George said that he would prefer to defer this discussion to when there are more Board members in attendance. He asked everyone to continue to think about it. Originally, the thought was to incorporate next and then file for 501(c)(3) status; however, there has been some discussion that this would not be the best option.

V. Subcommittee Reports

Education Committee: Paula said that the Education Committee will have a follow-up meeting with the Board of Ed on April 6th. She explained that basically the school curriculum is so tight that it would be very difficult to add anything to it; however, they agreed to think about how to incorporate something related to international projects into the existing curriculum.

Derek said that at a recent State Board of Education meeting, Governor O'Malley said that he wants Maryland schools to compete against schools in other countries. Also, President Obama stated in a recent speech that he would fund "innovative programs". The Sister Cities Committee should look into applying for some of these funds.

Cultural Affairs Committee: George said that he and Dr. Boger attended the dinner at SU on February 6th. It was very nice. They distributed some information on the Sister Cities Association. Also, he and Eli attended the Estonian film at SU on February 16th. Eli said that about 15 people attended. The film received a good response from the audience and everyone seemed interested in the Estonian culture.

Business Committee: George said that Renee Stephens has arranged for two people from the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development's Office of International Operations to speak in Salisbury on Monday, April 6th, at the Chamber of Commerce. They will talk about international business opportunities, focusing on Europe. After discussion, it was decided that the event would be held at 4:00pm. Eli will write up a blurb about the event to put in the Chamber e-newsletter and the Perdue School newsletter. Also, they will send an invitation to any business who expressed an interest in doing business overseas.

VI. Update from Eli Bulla, Sister Cities Intern

Eli said that he sent info to Tartu today; he included information about the Estonian dinner and film events, and information about yesterday's City of Salisbury primary election. He has not yet received information from Tartu.

Eli also said that he and George recently met with Tom Hehman, Wicomico Public Library Director. The library is very interested in doing international-related things such as a story time in which a book by an Estonian author is read, or putting up a display of international books and authors.

VII. 2009 Officers

George said that he will defer this agenda item until another meeting when there are more Board members in attendance.

VIII. Other Business

George read an email from Brian Stiegler who said that SU made a brief site visit to Aguascalientes, Mexico, last month. The group was received by the state Office of the Secretary of Commerce. They presented the SU group with a small gift and a brief PowerPoint presentation on business development opportunities in the state of Aguascalientes with the hope that both the gift and the presentation could be shared with the local business community in Salisbury. After discussion, it was decided that it would be best to incorporate this into the April 6th business event.

George read an email from Marion Keenan who said that Jan and Kevin Cardy, last year's Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury, England, would be visiting her in mid-May. She suggested that the Sister Cities Committee have a wine and cheese reception at her home on May 15th or 16th for the Cardys. After discussion, the Committee decided that they would be in support of some sort of reception event, but George would talk to Marion for more details.

Cindy said that the Chamber has a computer that they can use Skype on, but they need a webcam and a microphone. Skype was suggested for use for a videoconference with our Sister Cities.

IX. Concluding Remarks, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, at 4:00pm, in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. However, this meeting may be cancelled due to the April 6th Sister Cities business event.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Boobar, Secretary