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

November 3, 2009, 4:00pm

Council Chambers, Government Office Building

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: George Whitehead, Chair; Paula Morris, Vice Chair; Ernest Boger, Treasurer; Gina Boobar, Secretary; Bryan Burrows-McElwain; Cindy Feist; Therese Hamilton; John Hickman; Marion Keenan; Tatum Sheets; Brian Stiegler; Derek Wu; Hong Yao.

I. George Whitehead called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm. He introduced Therese Hamilton, the new Executive Director of SWAC.

II. Approval of Minutes of 9/22/09 Meeting and 10/6/09 Meeting

Marion Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes. Brian Stiegler seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Boger reported that the current balance is \$442.50. The Sister Cities International dues bill has been paid.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

Business Committee: (See item V. below)

Cultural Affairs Committee: No report.

Education Committee: No report.

V. International Trade Event at SU in December

John Hickman explained that the SBA and the Sister Cities Business Subcommittee are sponsoring a 3-hour seminar on international trade and exporting, *Exporting 101*, on Thursday, December 3rd, 9:00am-Noon, at SU. They are going to market the seminar to all the Lower Eastern Shore. The goal is to have approximately 30 people attend.

VI. Update from Tatum Sheets, Sister Cities Intern

George said that he would like to have the brochure finalized and printed soon. After discussion, it was agreed that Dalian, China, should be listed as a "Friendship City", not a "Sister City". Tatum said that the brochure is almost finished.

George explained that there is an opportunity to have another intern from SU next semester. In considering a project for an intern, he was thinking about having them work with PAC 14 to develop a brief video about the cultural aspects of Salisbury – “The International Side of Salisbury”. The Board agreed that this is an excellent idea.

VII. Discussion on Adding another Sister City

George suggested that they consider pursuing a Sister City relationship with a city in Mexico or Central America. There is a large Hispanic population in Salisbury. Dr. Boger mentioned that the Mexicans in this area speak a specific dialect; from the Yucatan Peninsula. He offered to research this to find out more details.

John Hickman added that Perdue will be looking toward South America for chicken production.

The Board asked Tatum to find out if Maryland has a Sister State relationship with any countries in Central America.

George proposed that they ask Mindie Burgoyne to come in next spring to give a presentation on trade missions. John Hickman said he will contact Ms. Burgoyne about this.

VIII. Other Business / Next Meeting

- 1) Marion said that Jan Cardy in Salisbury, England, suggested that they make a connection with Salisbury, North Carolina, who has an active Sister Cities program. Marion said that if the Board is agreeable with this, she will contact Salisbury, NC. The Board agreed. Marion also added that she is sending Jan Cardy cultural info.
- 2) Brian Stiegler said that SU will be receiving a delegation from the Anhui Province in China on Wednesday. On Thursday afternoon the delegation will be hosted by Pinehurst Elementary School. Anyone interested in attending is welcome.
- 3) Brian Stiegler explained that both he and Bryan Burrows-McElwain will be going to Tartu in the very near future. They are going for different reasons, but their trips will have some overlap. He and three deans from SU are going to Tartu in order to finalize details for a study abroad program between SU and the University of Tartu. Bryan McElwain will be going to meet with the University of Tartu’s Estonian Aviation Committee. Brian Stiegler said that he thought it would be appropriate for both of them to meet with someone in the Tartu City government and present one or two gifts. George asked the Board to think about gift ideas.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at 4:00pm, in room 300 of the Government Office Building. Brian Stiegler asked if he could be on the agenda to talk about the trip to Estonia and China.

IX. Concluding Remarks, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Boobar, Secretary