



**Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County (SCA of SWC)
January 7, 2009, 4:00pm
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: George Whitehead, Chair; Paula Morris, Vice Chair; Gina Boobar, Secretary; Ernest Boger, Treasurer; Eli Bulla; James Gillespie; John Hickman; Barbara Johnson; Marion Keenan; Brian Stiegler; Derek Wu; and Hong Yao.

I. George Whitehead called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. He introduced Eli Bulla, the new Sister Cities Committee intern. Eli explained that he is a senior at Salisbury University, with a double major in Marketing and Management. He has studied abroad twice; once in Tartu. He hopes to attend graduate school in France.

II. Subcommittee Reports

Cultural Affairs Committee: James Gillespie gave a report on the latest ideas being worked on by the Cultural Affairs Committee:

- 1) James will take international students on a local arts tour.
- 2) Agata talked to Dining Services about serving an Estonian dinner, which would be open to the public. Other elements such as Estonian music or art could also be added to a cultural dinner.
- 3) Sally Molenda has been researching various holidays and cultural events that occur in our Sister Cities. We are discussing the possibility of mirroring some of these events in Salisbury.
- 4) He talked to the Film Society about hosting another Estonian Film Festival, but they are completely booked for now.

Education Committee: Paula said that there will be a brainstorming session tomorrow from 9-11am at the Board of Education to discuss what the Board is interested in participating in, what is permitted, etc. If anyone from the Sister Cities Committee is interested in attending, they are welcome. James commented that available technology, such as SKYPE, should be taken advantage of when considering ideas. SKYPE is a free Internet communications software.

Business Committee: John Hickman said the Business Committee has not met for the last two months, but he will contact Renee Stephens about scheduling a meeting. They only received about a 1% response from the survey that they sent out to all Chamber members in the fall.

III. Update on Fundraising

Gina Boobar said that Mayor Tilghman has mailed out 22 letters over the last two weeks asking for funds for the Sister Cities Committee. If necessary, more letters will be sent out in the future.

After discussion, the Board agreed that as soon as they have raised \$510, they should renew their membership to Sister Cities International.

Paula Morris made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$510 for the renewal of membership dues to Sister Cities International. James Gillespie seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

IV. Introduction to Eli Bulla, Sister Cities Intern & Review of Intern Job Description

Ernest said that he would like the intern to identify a contact person in each of our Sister Cities and also give a report at each meeting about what is going on in each of our Sister Cities. He added that the *New York Times* travel section recently had a full page article on Salisbury, England.

V. 2009 Officers

George explained that he is happy to serve as Chair for another year; however, if anyone else is interested in the position, he would be happy to have them serve instead. The 2009 officers will be voted on at the February meeting.

VI. Meeting Schedule for 2009

The Board agreed to continue, at this time, with holding the meetings the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm at the Chamber of Commerce.

VII. Other Business

- 1) *Paula Morris made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2008, meeting. Brian Stiegler seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.*
- 2) George asked Brian if he thought the event in November with the international students at the Government Office Building was successful and worth repeating. Brian replied that the event was a great way to welcome the international students. He thinks the event should be held every fall, early in the semester. The Board agreed that they will host this event every October.
- 3) Paula mentioned that a new high school student representative will need to be found for the Board to replace Derek, who will be graduating in May. George, Paula and Derek recommended a sophomore student at Parkside High, who is from India.
- 4) Brad Bellacicco informed the Committee that there is currently \$300 in donations to the Sister Cities Committee. The Board agreed that renewing the membership dues to Sister Cities International will have to wait until they have raised \$510.

VIII. Concluding Remarks, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, at 4:00pm, in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Boobar, Secretary