



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

April 1, 2009, 4:00pm

Chamber of Commerce Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: George Whitehead, Chair; Ernest Boger, Treasurer; Gina Boobar, Secretary; Eli Bulla; Cindy Feist; Barbara Johnson; Marion Keenan; Derek Wu; and Hong Yao.

I. George Whitehead called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes of 3/4/09 Meeting

Ernest Boger made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009, meeting. Barbara Johnson seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer's Report / Update on Fundraising

Dr. Boger asked Cindy Feist of the Chamber of Commerce for the Treasurer's Report. Cindy reported that the 10% account management fee charged by the Chamber Foundation was removed. The current balance is \$503.

IV. "Global Markets" Event – April 6th, 4pm, Chamber of Commerce

George said that Mayor Tilghman offered to underwrite the cost of the wine and cheese for this event. Hong Yao volunteered to bring cookies. George said that he will get some soft drinks. Cindy offered to bring a fruit and dip tray. A total of 20-25 people can be expected to be in attendance at the event. This includes the RSVP's that Eli received, the Committee members who will attend, and the speakers.

Brian Stiegler has a PowerPoint presentation from Aguascalientes, Mexico. After discussion, the Committee decided that the best way to show the presentation would be to use the projector. The Chamber charges \$40 for the use of the projector. Brian will also make a presentation of a gift from Aguascalientes to the Chamber.

V. Subcommittee Reports

Cultural Affairs Committee: George said that they are still looking for a new chair for the Cultural Affairs Committee.

Business Committee: The "Global Markets" event on April 6th was already discussed.

Education Committee: George said that the follow-up meeting with the Board of Ed, originally scheduled for April 6th, has been rescheduled to the end of April.

VI. Update from Eli Bulla, Sister Cities Intern

Eli distributed information he received from Tartu – “News from Tartu” (attached to and part of these minutes). He sent Salisbury, England, two emails but has not received a response. Marion said that she also has difficulty when she tries to email Salisbury, England. Marion and Eli agreed to meet in order to directly telephone Salisbury, England.

Eli said that he will write an article about the April 6th business event for the May issue of the Chamber *Business Journal* as well as for the SU Perdue School’s newsletter. The Committee agreed that he should include some information from the “News from Tartu”.

VII. Other Business

George said that a Communication Arts student at SU, Lindsay Manuel, would like to intern for the Sister Cities Committee this summer. She can create a web site and possibly design a brochure.

Marion Keenan said that Jan and Kevin Cardy, last year’s Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury, England, would be visiting her in mid-May. The Sister Cities Committee agreed to host a wine and cheese reception at Marion’s home (513 Dogwood Drive) on Friday, May 15th, at 5:30pm. Marion said she will provide the wine and cheese if the Committee members who attend can also bring something. Just contact her in advance with what you want to bring. The Cardy’s would especially like to see Mayor Tilghman and her husband.

The Committee again discussed using Skype for a videoconference with Salisbury, England, and Tartu. It was agreed that holding a videoconference just one or twice a year is sufficient. Cindy said that the Chamber has a computer that they can use Skype on, but they need a webcam and a microphone. It was suggested that SU might have a computer already set up to use Skype.

VIII. Concluding Remarks, Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

The next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at 4:00pm, in room 306 of the Government Office Building, 125 N. Division Street.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Boobar, Secretary

News from Tartu

The unemployed homeless got a center for practicing work

Tartu opened a center for homeless unemployed, where they can do simple handwork, which do not require specific skill or equipment. Also the center helps to find places and companies where to practice and helps to raise working motivation and skills. The center also offers social counseling, informs about job offers, offers washing and laundry service. The funding came from the European Social Fund.

Tartu is now on the map of the world

Tartu gave its map information to the free online map service OpenStreetMap.org, where it can now be found and edited by everyone.

Children create their own playgrounds

Tartu is planning to build another playground and is asking the neighborhood children to participate in the planning process. The planners of the playground went to the neighboring schools and kinder gardens to ask the children what they want to see and have in the playground and asked them to draw down the playground of their dreams. In the future every new playground will be built based on the opinions of the children who will be using it.

Incubation center for creative arts companies

Thirteen companies started in the incubation center for creative companies. The aim of the center is to support new companies that deal with creative arts. The first companies deal for example with styling, pottery, photography, painting etc. The Incubation center offers reduced rent, counseling and schooling.

Tourists are interested more in Tartu

When most areas of Estonia suffered a decline in tourist numbers Tartu tourist numbers went the other way. Last year brought 14percent more tourist to stay overnight in Tartu than the year 2007. Domestic tourists number went up 12percent and they made up 54percent of the people who stayed overnight in Tartu hotels. Most of the foreign tourist originate from Finland (28 893)

and Germany (9093). The biggest growth of tourists came from Russian (47%) and Latvian (29%) tourists. Visitors numbers are biggest in August and July, smallest in January and December.

Tartu allows public consumption of alcohol in a public park

Last autumn the government made a new law that set a time limit for selling alcoholic beverages and abolished public consumption of alcohol, it also annulled the ordinance in Tartu that allowed people to drink light alcoholic beverages in one park in Tartu city center. Tartu decided to reinstate the park function as a picnic area, because it has always been a traditional student gathering place, where light alcoholic consumption is allowed. After all – Tartu is a student town! The park is situated in the center of Tartu, right behind the City Government Hall on the slopes of Toome Hill.

UNICEF extended Tartu mandate as a Child Friendly City to the year 2011

UNICEF report said that Tartu does systematic work with its youth. Tartu supports youth's and children's free time activities and centers and takes children's and youth's opinion to account. The city officials take into consideration the opinions of the youth and have a working collaboration net. Tartu has the UNICEF Child Friendly City title from 2004.