

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County
Minutes of the May 4, 2011 Meeting

Began: 4 PM, in the Government Office Building
Ended: About 5:15 PM

Attending: Brian Burrows McElwin, Cindy Feist, Ernest Borger, Brian Stiegler, Therese Hamilton, Marion Keenan, and Chair George Whitehead.

The Minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report: Cindy reported that the amount in our SCC Foundation account remains about the same as at the last meeting, a little under \$50. That amount will have to be significantly increased in order to pay our annual dues of \$500 in July.

Intern: Laura's International Salisbury video will be further edited by Tom Taylor prior to its PAC 14 showing. Next year's intern, Samantha, will focus on writing for the newspaper and on developing promotional material.

International golf tournament: Cindy reported need for more players. Chamber events coordinator Shannon Mitchell will discuss further at our next meeting. Five Chinese students are expected to arrive in early summer.

Third Friday: Scheduled for May 20. Attendance has been low for our Sister Cities promotions at Third Friday. Therese, Marion, and Cindy will coordinate a photo display at another event, most likely in connection with the June 17 golf tournament.

Salisbury UK: Simon from their tourist office sent George the show he made of the various Salisbury cities he visited last year and has given permission to put it on our website. Marion agreed to contact Tom Walsh for assistance.

China: George thanked the members who attended and/or sent refreshments for the Board of Education Superintendent's talk about his trip to China. Lauren taped it and George has taped an introduction to it. It aired on PAC 14 in April. George thanked the Chamber for hosting the event and noted that many non-members attended as well.

UMES is expecting a large group of about 20-30 students from China this fall. UMES also has a Visiting Professor from China and all agreed that we should include him. . SU is bringing Chinese teachers over this summer and hopes to involve BOE teachers. We would like to have a reception for the Chinese visitors and perhaps an event at the Mayor's office.

Tartu, Estonia: Jessie Cocci, Executive Office Associate for the Mayor will put the film of Singing to My Sister on You Tube. Brian will try to get it on SU's international website.

Third Sister City: At previous meetings we had agreed to pursue a relationship with a Latin American city. Although SU already has strong connections with Cuenca, Ecuador, Salisbury also has many residents from Central America and Mexico. In previous meetings we noted that a local church has a Sister Parish in Managua, Nicaragua and, stemming from that relationship, health care professionals have developed “La Merced,” an organization that provides medical equipment, supplies, and services to the people of Managua. Therefore, visits are relatively frequent between the two cities already.

Marion is a member of the St. Francis de Sales Sister Parish Committee and was part of a group which visited Nicaragua for that work in January 2010. The pastor and a parish member from La Nuestra Senora de la Merced parish in Managua will visit Salisbury in May. *[The formal relationship has been in existence for 19 years, with annual visits either to or from Managua and additional visits to assist with the Managua church’s clinic and school.]* La Merced’s health care professionals also visit Managua frequently. Marion noted that the pastor, Fr. Antonio Castro, is greatly respected in Managua.

Marion agreed to discuss the feasibility of a Sister City relationship when she attends the May 11 Sister Parish meeting.

[At the May 11 Sister Parish meeting there was overwhelming support for the Sister City concept. There have also been expressions of support from the leader of La Merced. Both groups think that a Sister City relationship is feasible because both Managua city officials and a significant portion of the populace know of La Merced’s work and of St. Francis de Sales parish’s work.]

Next meeting June 1 at 4:00 at the Chamber of Commerce