

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County
Minutes of the January 4, 2012 Meeting

Place: City Council Chambers

Began: 4 PM

Ended: About 5 PM

Board Attending: Chairman George Whitehead, Brian Steigler, Cindy Feist , Ernest Borger, John Hickman, Tom Welsh, Hong Yao, and Marion Keenan

Minutes: The November 2, 2011 Minutes were approved with the correction that Judylynn Mitchell had been there.

Treasurer's Report: There is no change from the previous meeting.

Intern: SU student Justin Auraora will be our intern for the spring semester. He is a Communication Arts major, with a keen interest in conference planning.

Newsletter and Fundraising: Paper copies of the newsletter were distributed and electronic copies can be circulated. Ernest Borger was to draft a fundraising letter and her promised to complete it ASAP. It will signed by all Board members available to do so. Intern Justin Auraora will do a second newsletter that will also have a donation request.

Website: Tom Welsh explained how we can communicate as a Board via our website.

May 10 Conference with Board of Education (BOE): We have been trying to work closely with the BOE on matters related to foreign students and students having English as a second language (ESL). We also want to recognize and celebrate the ethnic diversity of our students. The conference will be held after school hours and there will be a breakout group on ESL.

Chair Position: George noted that he has chaired this committee since 2007 and suggested that another might want to become Chairman. However, the group strongly encouraged George to continue as Chair and he consented. The other officers agreed to continue in their roles as well.

Third Friday: George agreed to talk to Therese Hamilton at SWAC to see if we might have a small section of its space to set up a display on Sister Cities.

Sister City in Central or South America: We have been considering Managua, Nicaragua but want to be sure that the city government there is open to working with us. The volunteer work there done by the medical group, La Merced, has had an enormous impact on Managua and its surrounding areas, and it is unlikely that government officials are not well acquainted with its work. La Merced is now an independent 501 (c) 3 corporation instead of a group specifically from St. Francis de Sales parish.

In May George, Brian, and Marion met with Father Antonio Castro and his associate from Managua's church of La Nuestra Senora de la Merced, during their Sister Parish visit to St. Francis de Sales' (SFDS). During the meeting both Fr. Castro and his associate indicated that a

Sister Cities relationship would be welcome in Managua. Fr. Castro is well acquainted with Managua City officials. Furthermore, on May 11 the SFDS Sister Parish Committee voted to support a Sister Cities relationship between Salisbury and Managua.

Marion will invite Tina Perrotta of La Merced to our February 1 meeting so that we might examine the best “next steps” in approaching Managua and also our own City Council. We would also like to meet with the La Merced Board of Directors to get its formal support.

SU: Brian Stiegler distributed a flyer on our Ambassador from Estonia. The SU Army ROTC, along with PACE, the Henson School of Science and Technology and the Fulton School of Liberal Arts, has organized a talk from Ambassador Marian Kaljurand on Tuesday, March 13, at 7 PM in the Great Hall of Holloway Hall.

Ambassador Kaljurand was born in our Sister City, Tallinn. It was agreed that we request permission to distribute our newsletters and our tri-fold brochure at her talk. We shall present her with a book on Salisbury authored by Joe di Carlo. Brian will advise us on the appropriate time for the presentation.

Next meeting: February 1, 2012.