

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County
Minutes of the March 14, 2012 Meeting

Place: Chamber of Commerce

Began: About 4 PM

Ended: About 5 PM

Board Attending: Chairman George Whitehead, Treasurer Ernest Boger, Gerry Wood, Bryan Burrows-McElwain, and Vice-Chair Marion Keenan.

Also attending were our SU Intern Justin Arora, who is a Communications Major; SU Intern for the Chamber Mike Sakell, who has a dual major of Spanish and Business, and Carole Champagne, professor of Modern Languages at both UMES and SU.

Minutes: The February 1, 2012 Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ernest distributed a report for the period January 1 through March to date indicating expenses of \$2,711.02 and "Start Up" assistance of \$3,366. The balance is \$654.98. Ernest encouraged Board members to make their 2012 donations.

Estonian Ambassador Kaljurand's Visit: She spoke the previous evening at SU. George noted that he presented her with a DVD of "Singing With My Sister" and, with Mayor Ireton, a book (signed by the Mayor and George and donated by Joe DiCarlo) on The Great Fire of Salisbury, and a print of an old map of Salisbury.

Carole expressed her pleasure at meeting the Ambassador and some of her staff. All remarked upon the Ambassador's dynamism, graciousness, and openness to students, faculty, and visitors. George noted that it was the previous Mayor, Barrie Tilghman, who established our Sister Cities connection with Estonia. During that time there was a heavy military presence in that country. The Estonian military and our own have had a long relationship, reflected in the evening's military presence, and it was the SU ROTC who introduced the Ambassador.

General Federer who started our Maryland Sister State relationship with Estonia was present. (President Eisenhower started "Sister States.")

Bryan recalled that the UMES Aviation Program was doing training with the Estonian Air Guard.

Ernest noted that the past Sunday's New York Times travel section had an article about Tartu, our Sister City.

Sister City in Central or South America: George and Tina Perotta, Executive Director of La Merced, have been communicating about establishing a Sister Cities relationship with Managua, Nicaragua. George plans to attend La Merced's next Board meeting.

May 5th Conference with the Board of Education: George reported that Judy-Lynn Mitchell completed the CFES grant request for food at the conference, which will further English as a Second Language (ESLA) in schools. Justin Arara is working on flyers. Letters requesting gifts in kind have been sent to Vitamin Water, Walmart, Target, Barnes and Noble, and SU's "best buddies."

Board membership: George thanked Carole Champagne for attending and said that Sister Cities would benefit greatly from her presence on the Board of Directors. Carole graciously accepted the invitation to join us. George described our Committee structure but observed that

our work is somewhat fluid because we take advantage of opportunities like last evening's event at SU.

April 19 Sister Cities Event in Baltimore: Bryan reported on this meeting of all Sister Cities programs in the State of Maryland. He and Carole will attend. During the discussion, it was noted that the Ocean City/Berlin Sister Cities group has relationships in Ital and in Estonia. The Board recalled that Barbara Johnson of Berlin had been on our Board.

Meeting Times: Observing that several Board members are not able to attend Wednesday meetings, George suggested meeting at the same time but on the first Tuesday of the month. All agreed.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 3 at 4 PM.

Submitted by: Vice-Chair Marion Keenan