

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the November 5, 2013 Meeting

The meeting began at 4:10 PM in Room 306 of the Government Office Building. It ended at about 5 PM. Attending were George Whitehead, Ernest Boger, Carole Champagne, John Hickman, Tom Welsh, and Marion Keenan

Minutes of September's meeting were approved. October's event for international students is documented with a photo.

Treasurer's report: We have only 88.32 in our Chamber of Commerce Foundation fund. We recently paid our dues of \$510 to Sister Cities International; All agreed that fundraising is essential. Board contributions are most welcome.

SU student Intern Brittany Crispino has completed 25 of her 90 required internship hours. She is still working on the newsletter. Carole will send an article about her embassy experiences to Brittany. Barrie Tilghman has written an article on our Tartu relationship. Brittany is also preparing for November's Third Friday dance and musical event. As George will be on sabbatical next semester, he will be unable to supervise Jodi, our incoming intern. Marion agreed to supervise this practicum.

Dalian, China: The 2014 U.S.-China Sister Cities Conference will be held March 26. Mayor Ireton is invited to serve on the honorary list. There will be a reception on March 26 at the Chinese Embassy in D.C.

Tartu, Estonia: There was extended discussion about the puzzling halt in emails from MEEC. Brian Burrows McElwain was very involved with MEEC and perhaps he can clarify the situation.

Cuenca, Ecuador: Our Sister City relationship is still in process. Brian Stiegler has been working on it and we will ask him to supervise our Intern's research there. Mayor Ireton would have to make the formal invitation to the mayoral equivalent in Cuenca.

Salisbury, England: Tom Welsh gets the Salisbury UK *Salisbury Journal* delivered to his email "in box" daily. It is free and a good way to learn what is going on in our first Sister City. Other Board members will subscribe, as well. Marion reported that previous visitors here, Mayor and Mayoress Jan and Kevin Cardy, have moved from Salisbury to Hythe, Southampton. Marion expects to visit Salisbury, England in the fall.

Tom displayed an image of Salisbury UK's Street Sign showing the direction and kilometers to each of its Sister Cities. Another city had a similar display. All agreed that a street sign pointing the way to our Dalian, China, friendship city and to our Salisbury and Tartu Sister Cities would be a wonderful addition to our downtown. The Government Office Building or the downtown plaza's pedestrian area would be ideal locations. It was agreed that we will ask the City to erect the sign and do fundraising for it should the City have insufficient funds.

Election of officers: Noting his chairmanship since January 2008, George Whitehead sought a replacement. Vice-Chair Marion Keenan agreed to move up to Chair starting in December. John Hickman agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. Ernest Boger agreed to continue as Treasurer. Since it would be difficult for Marion to continue to take Minutes, Carole Champagne graciously volunteered to do so. Tom Welsh will continue to maintain the website.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 3, at 4 PM, Room 306 of the Government Office Building.