

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the December 3, 2013 Meeting

The meeting began at 4:05 PM in Room 306 of the Government Office Building. It ended before 5:00 PM. Attending were Marion Keenan, George Whitehead, John Hickman, Tony Russo, Tom Welsh, Ernest Boger, Brittany Crispino, and Carole Champagne

Minutes of November's meeting were approved, with note that Tom Welsh was present.

The Committee welcomed its newest member, Tony Russo.

Treasurer's report: The previous balance of 88.32 in our Chamber of Commerce Foundation fund has been enhanced greatly by Committee contributions, which may increase even further before the close of 2013. Some of the money will be used to print the newsletter.

All thanked SU student Intern Brittany Crispino for her outstanding service. She has completed all 90 required internship hours. She finished the newsletter, but it is twelve pages long. George will condense it to reduce pages. Tom said that he can post the longer version of the newsletter online. George has a distribution list for the newsletter but it needs expansion. The Committee noted that printed newsletters are good for Third Friday and other special events as well as to distribute during speaking engagements to Rotary and other service clubs. Our Bookmarks were distributed when Brian Stiegler spoke Rotary Club of Salisbury.

Brittany will send photos and videos of the November 15 Third Friday dance and musical event to Tom via Dropbox for the website. She has video links and several photo sources. A video link may be put on the PAC 14 and Salisbury and Wicomico Arts Council websites. Therese Hamilton is interested in future Third Friday collaborations.

Brittany spoke with our incoming Intern, Stefany Ruiz, two weeks ago about intern projects for next semester. She also met with City Council President Jake Day about plaques or signs of our Sister Cities placed in the Downtown Plaza or outside the Government Office Building.

Dalian, China: George does not know if Salisbury Mayor Jim Ireton plans to attend the March Chinese Embassy event to which he was invited or if he will send a representative. Our Mayor was invited to serve on a steering committee, but we do not know if he will be able to participate. George will speak to him. We are a "Friendship City" with Dalian. Its only official Sister City is Oakland, California. This semester, Hong Yao's teaching schedule conflicts with her attendance. Derek Wu lives in the DC area now. They had been giving the reports on Dalian. Marion may contact Brian Stiegler about Chinese contacts.

Tartu, Estonia: Latvia will join the European Union on January 1, 2014. Carole may witness the transition. She will arrive in Tallinn on December 17. Karine Mandel of the Estonian Aviation

Academy will meet her on December 18. Carole will attend classes with her daughter during the last week of classes in 2013. She will thank the University of Tartu International Programs staff for providing an excellent program. Brittany said that the SU students enjoyed their semesters in Tartu.

Cuenca, Ecuador: Our Sister City relationship depends upon Brian Stiegler's contacts in the local government and newspaper. George discussed the issues with Brian a few weeks ago. He will follow up on the process with Brian before next year. Brian was traveling in Korea.

Salisbury, England: Tom Welsh described the different style of journalism in England. The online articles posted from Salisbury local news outlets are whimsical and entertaining. An article about local children decorating the tallest Christmas tree in Europe did not mention the size of the tree. He reported on an important article about the Salisbury's government appropriating funds for Salisbury's Sister City arrangements with its counterparts in Germany and France.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2014. We will reserve the Government Business Office Room 306 for 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by Carole Champagne on December 4, 2013