

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the January 7, 2014 Meeting

The meeting began at 4:00 PM in Room 306 of the Government Office Building. It ended at 5:15 PM. Attending were Marion Keenan, George Whitehead, Tony Russo, Cindy Feist, Ernest Boger, and Carole Champagne

Minutes of December 2013 meeting were approved.

The Committee welcomed Cindy Feist from the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce.

Treasurer's report: The current balance is \$718.78 in our Chamber of Commerce Foundation fund. The Chamber of Commerce submitted an end-of-year written report. Contributions of \$200 were made in December 2013.

The December 2013 Newsletter was shared with Milton Davis. Mr. Davis invited Mayor Ireton and the Board to the Maryland Sister States Legislative Reception in Annapolis on January 27 at the Maryland Inn. Three board members may attend. George will inform Mayor Ireton about the event. He invited Eastern Shore delegates and constituents.

An International Golf Tournament is planned by the Chamber of Commerce. Mid-May or mid-October dates were discussed. October 11-12 can tie in with the Good Beer Festival. The network will invite students from UMES, Wor-Wic, and SU and the three lower counties of Delmarva. Students can partner with a golf pro. Three-day packages will be offered. Participants from AmeriCorps can volunteer during the weekend. The UMES Golf Program has a December graduation, but sixty students are enrolled in the program.

Stefany Ruiz, the new intern, can survey the international students to gauge their interest in participating in the tournament. More friends than family may support golfers from other countries. Our Board will contact other Sister Cities Boards in Ocean City, Dorchester, Queenstown, etc. Our Board will set up parameters before presenting the tournament to other councils. Ocean City should have an interest in its contributions to hotel and restaurant patronage.

George showed the SWAC Newsletter to the Board. A short article and several photos from the Third Friday November International Student performances at the Downtown Gallery were highlighted. George said that an Estonian artist from Tartu will be featured at the Salisbury University Downtown Gallery in March. Her artwork will be displayed at the Estonian Embassy in February. A cultural event like the Twin Towns' National Cuisine Days in Tartu can tie in with the Downtown Gallery exhibit.

Cindy will talk to the Market Street Inn and Cellar Door about preparing Estonian cuisine or appetizers for cuisine tied in with the art exhibit. LORA may be interested in a “Taste of Salisbury” event that relates to our Sister Cities agreements and friendship.

Dalian: Tony will send a link to an online article about business and events in Dalian, China article to Marion. WANDA, the largest company in China, bought the cinema chain AMC. Dalian is also now building an aircraft carrier.

Tartu: Carole delivered color copies and bookmarks to the Tallinn City Hall, Tartu City Hall, Tartu Department of Public Relations, University of Tartu Office of International Programs, and Estonian Aviation Academy. She discussed the annual Taste of Tartu Sister Cities (Twin Towns’ National Cuisine Days) international restaurant event with the Public Relations staff.

Carole met with Ülle Tensing in the Office of International Programs. Ülle described the cooperation with Tallinn Technical University for the Cyber Security Program. Several Tallinn students (and a professor) will attend Salisbury in Spring 2014. Tartu students will attend Salisbury University next year.

Karine Mandel gave Carole a tour of the state-of-the-art aviation building with the only full-size air traffic control tower simulator in Europe and one of the most advanced flight simulators. Only an aviation school in Helsinki has similar facilities. She met all the high-level program directors and administrators. Students take their first two years at the University of Tartu and complete their undergraduate and graduate degrees at the Eesti Lennuakadeemia. ERASMUS students are also enrolled. An Estonian student won a \$5000 scholarship from an American Estonian Foundation in Ohio to study in the UMES Aviation Program for the Spring 2014 semester. The student returned the scholarship because he was told that only degree-seeking international students were accepted. Karine asked Carole to inquire about semester enrollment at Salisbury University with some aviation courses at UMES. Carole will share program details with Brian Stiegler.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 4, 2014. John Hickman will fill in for Marion, who will be in Italy. We will meet in the Government Business Office Room 306 for 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by Carole Champagne on January 10, 2014