

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the September 8, 2015 Meeting

Began: 4:00 PM in Government Office Building Conference Room 306. **Ended:** 5:30 PM.

Attending: Marion Keenan, John Hickman, Ernest Boger, Darby Dicks, Carole Champagne

Minutes: August 4 Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Ernest picked up the expense report at the Chamber of Commerce en route to the meeting. Marion sent him the online invoice for the current dues of \$580.00. The account balance will be \$16.58.

Fall 2015 Intern Report: Darby will include designing a rack card for the Chamber of Commerce, designing materials for funding sources, and writing press releases for media outlets. Darby will update the 2013 fact sheet for promotions. She will create profiles for links to Sister Cities International and LinkedIn. Darby will update and share materials with visitors to our table at Third Fridays on September 18 and October 16. Ernest suggested posters of appealing visuals like Stonehenge. Others suggested images of the Magna Carta to attract visitors to our table. She may set up the table for the September 12 Arts Jam Festival on the River Walk around 10:30. Ernest and Carole may run the table during the afternoon and evening. Darby will document all events with a professional camera.

Mayor Ireton and International Students Welcome Ceremony: The Office of the Mayor confirmed that he will be available after 4:00 or 4:30 on September 18. John will ask Brian or Agata if their students can travel to the Council Chambers at that time. Transportation should be the only concern because no classes conflict with the timeframe. Students can take the Downtown Trolley back to campus after participating in Third Friday.

Dalian, China: No report.

Tartu, Estonia: Carole represented the Eastern Shore at the August 13 Maryland Estonia Exchange Council meeting with members of the Joint Baltic American Committee. Delegates from the Estonian Embassy attended. Salisbury was welcomed as an active Sister City. Barbara Tower from Bel Air Sister Cities and Narva gave packets of brochures and maps from her June visit to Estonia with Toivo Tagments. Carole gave Ernest a packet from Parnu and copy of the 2002 agreement signed by Mayor Matthias. Parnu officials had expressed concern that Ocean City has not responded to their communications. Ernest will meet with the Mayor and Council of Ocean City on September 9 and remind the current O.C. government of the 2002 agreement.

Salisbury, England: Marion said that anyone could register for the online British newspaper *The Salisbury Herald*. It features local and regional news, including events related to the cathedral's Magna Carta.

Latin American linkages: Marion read added features to the Sister Cities International website, including expanded content, Profile Pages linked to every Sister City, and "Cities Seeking

Sisters” links. We will search the list of Latin American or African cities interested in linkages. Ernest met three Rotary Clubs in Ghana during a three-week July visit. UMES and Kwame Mfume University established agreements. Kumasi University also developed Hospitality exchange programs with UMES.

Website: Carole will submit the August Minutes report.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 4:00 PM **Submitted by:** Carole Champagne