

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

**Minutes of the November 28, 2016 Meeting**

**Began:** 12:00 PM in Government Office Building Conference Room 306. **Ended:** 1:00 PM.

**Attending:** Marion Keenan, George Whitehead, Thomas Welsh, John Hickman, Chelsea Brennan, Theo Williams, Carole Champagne, and guest, Nancy Talbot

**Minutes:** October Minutes submitted by George were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** no report

**SU Intern:** Chelsea Brennan distributed drafts of the condensed Fact Sheet and Newsletter. Her interview with Mayor Jake Day is at 1:00 today to add newsletter article. She will give him Sister Cities Holiday card. Chelsea created Facebook logo and template. Correction to Fact Sheet and Accomplishments: in 2012 the Board of Education did not initiate pen pals. St. Francis de Sales students were pen pals with the Tartu school. Add that they continued discussing pen pal projects with local educational institutions. No 2015 events are listed. Sister States Legislative reception in April and Estonian Embassy E-governance Conference in December 2015 should be added. Marion, Ernest, and Carole participated. The primary presenter, Carl Pucci, was invited to meet with City and County Officials in January 2016.

Country flags will be changed to city flags. Theo submitted the new flag of Salisbury, MD. Tom submitted flag and crest of Salisbury, UK. Tartu flag and crest are linked to official city website in English. Dalian flag will be identified from official website. Assigned projects include a Sister Cities booth at Third Fridays, press releases about Salisbury Sister Cities, and a newsletter for the community. Usage of the organization's initials should be consistent with "SCA of SWC." It may be confused with SWAC and other acronyms without "of." Delete the term "four-member Board" from Fact Sheet and website. The Board and general membership fluctuate. Visual appeal of Facebook template is excellent. The LinkedIn page can utilize same logo and banner. Members can add and update content to both pages with administrative access and suggest further website content and design for greater public appeal.

**Dalian, China:** Theo requested official process and formal letter to convert friendship status to sister status with Dalian. Mayor Jake Day must contact his counterpart in Dalian. Tom identified the mayor's name with English translations through unofficial websites. Official Dalian governmental websites were in Chinese characters.

**Tartu, Estonia:** The Maryland Estonia Exchange Council meeting is November 29 in Columbia.

**Potential Sister City in Ecuador:** Carole researched three Cities Seeking Sisters in Ecuador. Tom suggested that Salinas was most similar to Salisbury as a coastal city with a population of 71,000. The other Ecuadorian cities in the mountainous inland regions had much larger populations. Montt, Chile, was compatible, but requested a Pacific Northwest Sister. Marion will initiate contact with Sister Cities International. Carole will communicate directly with Salinas in Spanish.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, January 3, 2017

**Secretary:** Carole Champagne