

Minutes
Sister Cities Association of Salisbury, Wicomico County
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

1. The meeting began at approximately 4 PM in Room 306 of the Government Office Building. Attending were Cindy Feist, Ernest Boger, George Whitehead, Gerry Wood, and Marion Keenan.
2. Minutes of previous meeting were approved.
3. Salinas, Ecuador will become our newest sister city. George, Cindy, Ernest, Marion and Carole participated in last Friday's visit. Salinas Mayor Cisneros and those accompanying him met with Mayor Day, his staff, and us.

We shared information about of our two cities and their surroundings. These discussions included economic factors such as tourism, mining, manufacturing. There were also discussions about culture, education, and history in our cities and their surrounding areas. Both cities share the experience of a vibrant seafood industry and both have nearby beaches attract tourists. Mayor Daniel Cisneros said that he came from a family of "shrimpers." He and his staff also noted that many American retirees come to Salinas for the life-style at fairly low cost to them.

After the meetings at City Hall, we visited the Chamber of Commerce for further economic discussions.

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach welcomed the group to Salisbury University and took all of us present on a campus tour. Her staff arranged a lovely private lunch in the Perdue Conference Room at the Academic Commons for all of us. This facilitated more conversation about our prospective continued relationship.

The next visit was to UMES in Princess Anne, where the President, her Executive Vice President, and the PR director graciously greeted all. Ernest Boger took them on a tour of the Hotel and Restaurant Management program, which interested the Salinas group because of their tourism industry. They also learned about the Golf program, which currently is the only one at an HBCU, and about the Doctoral program in Food Science. They also toured the Aviation and Science Program and the Robotics Lab prior to their departure at about 4:30.

Carole, who is fluent in Spanish, will remain in contact with Mayor Daniel Cisneros. She will also assist in posting her and other photos taken on our website. George has given Nancy Talbot a form letter by which Mayor Day can invite Mayor Cisneros to become our Sister City. Marion will ask Nancy to inform her when our letter is sent to Salinas and when we have received a response. Marion will also work the Mayor's office regarding subsequent press releases about the formal relationship.

4. Reports on our other “sisters.”

- a. **Salisbury**, England: There was sparse discussion other than that the digital *Salisbury Journal* is free and a nice was to stay informed.

- b. **Tartu**, Estonia: There was a brief discussion about the most recent Estonian visit to Salisbury, during which there was much educational discussion about how our city and county could increase its effectiveness and reduce cost by in improving digital access and communication.
George plans to attend the upcoming Estonian event in Columbia. Milt Davis had contacted those of us who had attended previous events.

- c. **Dalian**, China: George noted that he had given to Nancy Talbot at Mayor Day’s office a template of a letter that Mayor Day can use to invite the Mayor of Dalian to formalize a stronger “sister” relationship in lieu of our current “friendship” relationship. As noted in the March 7 Minutes, we have not received information about the status of the agreement to become “sisters.” Salisbury and Dalian are not yet listed as sisters in the Sister Cities International Directory. Dalian is a Sister to Oakland, CA.

5. **Interns:** Hoping to have an intern for the fall, we must apply for one as soon as possible. Marion will try to find out who is in charge of the program at SU. Our board members on the SU faculty could be of assistance to her and she seeks their assistance.

We must obtain hard copies of Chelsea Brennan’s “products” which are in digital format.

The meeting adjourned at about 5 PM.