

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury and Wicomico County
October 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Zoom meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Present: John Hickman, George Whitehead, Gerry Wood, Nate Sansom, Kelsey Norton, Marion Keenan, Carole Champagne

Reports and updates:

Intern Report: Kelsey hosted a table for Third Friday on September 17. Two trifold posters did not stay on the table due to high wind. She designed an updated seal for the Maryland Estonia Exchange Council, but she does not have the software to change it digitally. The Salisbury Entrepreneur Center Intern has access to the graphic arts software. Kelsey will show her designs within the month. She took photos at the bridge ribbon cutting ceremony. She will write an article about the event. She contacted The Flyer about submitting an article.

Tartu, Estonia: Nate said that the Tartu-Salisbury Friendship Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony was a success. It began after 3:30 on October 1st. Dignitaries included Maryland Secretary of State Wobensmith, Estonian Ambassador Kristjan Prikk, Senator Cardin, Senator Van Hollen, and Mayor Day. They all gave speeches at the dedication. Salisbury University President Wight and Associate Provost of International Education Brian Stiegler hosted guests at a reception on campus. More concrete will be poured before opening the bridge for traffic.

On September 25 Carole attended the MEEC Annual Meeting because she could not attend on October 1st. Dignitaries Ambassador Kristjan Prikk and Counsellor for Cyber Issues and Economic Affairs and Secretary of State Wobensmith gave speeches. Karl Altau and JBANC friends attended. President Toivo Tagamets turned the Meeting over to Vice President Barbara Tower. She focused on fundraising ideas. MEEC members voted on the three top choices. Number one was the Ambassador's offer to prepare dinner for ten to twenty people at the Estonian Embassy Residence. Raffle tickets will be sold for the Ambassador's dinner. All members agreed that the MEEC seal should be updated. The Maryland National Guard liaison discussed Sister States agreements with other countries.

Dalian, China: Nate said that Chinese Internet firewalls do not allow incoming communication from American servers. They will work on resolving the Chinese lockdown browser and website blocker so that Pinehurst Elementary School students can communicate with Chinese students in Dalian schools.

Salisbury, UK: Gerry's application for the \$1000 SWAC grant is ready to submit. He did not convene the Task Force last month. Elizabeth Davis brought souvenirs from her hometown in Salisbury, UK to the bridge ceremony. She will share the Cathedral celebration with friends in the Washington, D.C. region.

Salinas, Ecuador: Carolina Bown communicated with a Salinas school interested in virtual pen pals with Wicomico High School. They are working on communication through Google Meet.

Future Plans: Salisbury University International Students have not visited Council Chambers since Mayor Ireton. We will contact Brian and Agata to ask if International Students want to visit Council Chambers and meet Mayor Day. Nate said that early morning hours are best to visit Council Chambers and governmental offices.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50. Next meeting will be November 2, 2021.