

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury and Wicomico County

12/7/21

400PM

In-person Government Building Downtown and Zoom

Present: Gerry Wood, George Whitehead, Nate Sansom, Kelsey Norton (SU Intern),
Marion Keeton *Zoom*, Therese Hamilton *Zoom*

1. YAAS presentation by George and Therese
(Young Artist and Author Showcase) Report was made on the progress for a Sister Cities themed artwork contest sponsored by Sister Cities International. Goal is to get local high school students involved in project. Therese and George are creating a letter outlining contest rules, due dates and benefits of participating (prizes, exposure, recognition media releases and certificates). The international prizes will be \$1000, \$500, \$100. Discussion of local prizes will continue next month. A suggestion was to have an exhibit of the entries in the Sarbanes Library downtown in the Spring. Kelsey is completing work on an event poster design. A letter and poster are going to area high schools to elicit entries. George and Therese are coordinating this. The deadline for local art is March 1, 2022 and deadline for international submissions (after winners are selected here) is April 1, 2022.
2. Minutes, review corrections and updates/ approval
Carol updated some portions of the November minutes, so approving the November minutes will await her return from abroad for the January meeting.
3. Updates from Intern
Kelsey's last day will be December 9th. The Board expressed appreciation for all of her assistance and reliability.
4. Treasurer's report: Need Treasurer
George has accepted the post of acting Treasurer largely due to the need to handle monies (beginning soon) for the Cathedral Celebration in May.
5. Reports and updates:
 - a. Dalian, China:
Nate reported that progress in firming up Sister City status as well as school exchange communication programs is at a standstill since both schools and government offices are once again on lockdown in Dalian due to Covid. He reported that official Christmas letters have been sent to all 3 of our Sister Cities' mayors and to Dalian from Mayor Day.
 - b. Tartu, Estonia
Nate said there was nothing to report. A Christmas letter was sent from Mayor Day to Ambassador Prekk who joined us in October to inaugurate the Camden pedestrian bridge.
 - c. Salinas, Ecuador Nothing to report. Christmas letter was sent by Mayor Day

d. Salisbury, England

Gerry reported that the SWAC application was submitted on time and receipt was acknowledged.

The Budget and Expense proposal was distributed. The final target is \$12,650 with a balance needed of \$3439. Any grant funds from the SWAC grant will reduce that amount. Gerry requested any suggestions for potential donors and challenged all Board members to donate at least \$100. He will begin contacting potential donors as soon as the holidays are over.

Publicity work has begun. Gerry has contacted Hannah Miller at WSCL for a current quote on radio ads. He will begin making additional contacts as soon as the holiday time is over. A publicity plan was included in the SWAC grant application to use as a blueprint.

Gerry will try to find a corporate donor or foundation to under right the expense of a Sister Cities signpost like the one in Salisbury, England. He has asked Mayor Day for a time to discuss this further. Mayor Day recommended that we place something near the Tartu bridge so that all Sister Cities commentaries could be grouped together for maximum impact. Ideally, this could be unveiled while David Halls is here from Salisbury, England.

6. Other business

It is **critical** that we attract new members to the Board. Representatives from public education, the university, the business sector, and the countries that are sisters, etc. would be ideal. Without support, contacts and energy, growing and developing new, impacting and meaningful projects is not possible.

For the good of the order

To Do List:

All Recommend new board members

All Review website and recommend any changes/updates as we move into 2022

Do we need to remove anything or add anything?

All Recommend donors for the Cathedral Celebration

Gerry and George to contact Suzanna Mallow at SU for ideas about A/V for the Cathedral Celebration's Wednesday and Friday evening programs.

George and Therese get the letters and posters out to local art departments of high schools about YAAS

George contact Donnie Williams Foundation about assistance

Gerry re-contact schools/art teachers to reconfirm creating doves for Friday night Cathedral program

Gerry Solidify May programs for Cathedral Celebration and re-contact Cathedral

Next meetings: 1/4/22 and 2/8/22 (note this is the *second* Tuesday due to schedule conflict)

