

# Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2019

7:00 p.m. Kallsen Conference Center

Call to Order 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present were recognized.

- Recognize Commission members present: Chairman/Commissioner Patrick Rea; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Marilyn Bill, Lucas Hawley, Sarah Krause, Jim Muller, and George Rohde.
- Staff Liaison: Dominic Sanfilippo
- Absent: Commissioners Julie Dekker and Kurt Dekker
- Guests/Public: Michelle Rons and Rob Zimmer

Minutes were reviewed and read from November 20, 2019. Commissioner Rohde made a motion to approve, Commissioner Muller seconded, all in favor. Motion passed.

## **Sister City Updates:**

### Büdingen Update:

- Recaps were given by each of the commissioners and members of the public that traveled to Büdingen:
  - Jim Muller
  - Sarah Krause
  - Rob Zimmer
  - Roxane Tyssen
  - Lucas Hawley
- Büdingen hospitality was reviewed. They went above and beyond our expectations.
- The 2022/Next Trip here for the Germans was discussed. This agenda item will be kept on the agenda as a placeholder for further discussions. An overnight stay at Starved Rock was discussed. Zoos, Capone/mob history activities, Halloween activities, Museum of Science and Industry (MSI) the U505 submarine (arrange a private tour), etc.

### Mallow:

- Nothing to report.

### Nowy Sacz:

- Our intent it still to reach out to the current Polish community to help with communications. Chairman Rea will ask his friend, who is a professor, to visit Tinley Park and whom has also been the liaison between the SCC and Nowy Sacz to date.

## **Prospective Sister Cities:**

### Jordan:

- The Commission discussed the idea of a luncheon to be arranged with Mr. Issahan Swisse, the Counsel General of the Jordanian Embassy in Chicago. Chairman Rea will host this event. Aqaba is the city in Jordan that is interested in a sister/twinning cities relationship with Tinley Park. They have already offered to host any Commissioners who may want to go there. We are looking at a date for the lunch in February.

### Canada:

- Roxane has previously reached out to Nicole, a contact in Ottawa, ON, Canada and will follow up with her on ideas of what city in Canada may be a good match and within a days' drive from Tinley Park/Chicago. Windsor has been mentioned as have Cobourg and Thunder Bay, all of which are in the province of Ontario.

## **Associate Commissioners:**

- There was a proposal to have current and all former mayors made honorary associate members of the Sister Cities Commission.
- Residency requirements for associate and regular commissioners was discussed. Roxane proposed Rob Zimmer for an associate commissioner position pending the results of this. Commissioner Rohde made a motion and Commissioner Muller seconded.

## **New Business/Upcoming Events:**

- Irish Day Parade was discussed and all were favorable to the idea that we will be participating. Roxane will follow up with Vicki in mid/end of January. Commissioner Rhode made the motion to participate, Commissioner Bill seconded. In the meantime, Chairman Rea will look into a lunch at the Irish fellowship of Chicago. Pat will work with any commissioner who may want to go to Mallow. Pat Carr also has connections with the Irish communities and we may also utilize his resources to have bodies in the parade with us.
- Rob Zimmer mentioned that the benches on the avenue for 2020 have a theme on travel. Commissioner Julie Dekke stated that we should look into doing one for Büdingen/Germany and Mallow/Ireland.
- Michelle Rons, who traveled to Germany with the group, is interested in being a commissioner and/or associate commissioner. We told her that her resume should be submitted to Pat Rea which will then be forwarded onto the Mayor's office. She also traveled to Budingen in July with the two Commissioners who visited there for the Medieval Faire which is held bi-annually.

## **Old Business:**

- Chairman Rea's reception for Senator Lipinski went well. The senator participated in the holiday market activities that were going on that weekend.

## **Next Meeting:**

- January 15, 2020 is the next meeting.

**Public comments.**

- Commissioner Hawley made some closing comments of how the 30th Anniversary visit went and how much it meant to everyone there.
- We all gave Commissioner Rohde a hearty congratulations on his collie "Honey", she will be showing at Westminster as the #3 collie in the country. This is an annual event that is held at Madison Square Gardens in New York.

**Adjourned:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.