

Sister Cities Commission Meeting Minutes
Special Commission Meeting
January 21, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Call to order, Pledge, and commission member introductions.

The Skype call connected. Edda was translating for us on the Büdingen side, Marilyn did some translation for us in Tinley Park.

Michael Hiss, JoAnne Dykhuizen, Marilyn Bill, Jim Mueller, Roxane Tyssen were present, Dave Niemeyer and guest Elyse Maloney were present.

There were six people attending on the Büdingen side. They are looking at reorganizing on their Sister City end too. They have six sister cities: Tinley Park - United States, Sebeş - Romania, Bruntál - Czech Republic, Herzberg - East Germany, Gistel - Belgium, and Loudéac - France.

Edda translated on their end for us.

July visit by our Commissioners was discussed. Michael Hiss and Trustee Suggs will most likely be making the trip. Others have not committed to it yet but are interested.

Accommodations?

Normally when we meet each other, we usually stay with host families. They will assist with setting these up. Advantages of this is that it's free, submersion into the culture.

Train?

There is a train that goes from Büdingen to the airport. They can also pick us up.

We need information about the Medieval Fest. Will we come as participants of the fest or as visitors.

Every other year they have this fest. Opposing years they have artistic knights - artists, musicians, actors, etc - fest. The fest is within the old town walls of Büdingen.

Transportation is generally dependent on the host family. Public transit is not very good. Your host family will generally take off and take you around. People can walk.

Büdingen is 10K in population, but there are 15 villages around the city.

They need to know as soon as possible how many people will be coming. Hotels will book up soon for the fest.

Edda will email Michael .

They write an article in the local paper to announce our arrival and to look for host families.

Will initially be set up for commissioners, and if there is a large response we will put a cap on it.

They have to have the opportunity to find accommodations. Need a # of travelers by Mar 30/Apr 2. Names and ages and any allergies/are they animal lovers or not. Many people have pets. Edda has 7 cats in the house.

It depends on how many come and how long they will stay. Will they need to pick us up or will it be individually.

Airfare costs were discussed. Jim stated that it is almost 3x as much to fly there in the summer versus in the off season.

We need to book flights now for that time frame.

Edda - from her experience, 3 months out is a good time to book flights.

Art and music exchange to focus on more of a cultural exchange in addition to a people exchange.

Büdingen Website:

http://www.buedingen.info/erleben/veranstaltungskalender/?dfx_tpl=detail&dfxquery=m%3D2017-6&tid=8351&item_start=0&m=2017-6

Jim spoke about his visit there and how Edda mentioned that there were artists and artwork that we can look at exchanging.

Edda/Büdingen would like to go back to visiting each other every two years. As part of this, on their next visit, they would like to bring artists with them. We can plan a fest or gallery event around this. There are musicians, artists, dancers who may also be interested in coming as well.

We need to get information on the arts center. They do an annual fest at Vogt. Büdingen art fest is usually around the 2nd weekend in July - around July 10th.

Discussed a digital art exchange before an in-person artist exchange will be done. Explained how it would be done versus an actual people exchange.

They meet every first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. their time. 12:30 a.m. our time.

The article in their newspaper was discussed. They felt that there was no Sister City Commission anymore. This Skype call has helped to ease these tensions.

Sister City Logo - they had a graphic designer that worked on theirs.

The story of the frog was told. The city was built on/near a swamp. The old castle of Budingem had a moat filled with water. Around 1200 a.d. the prince married his princess. The frogs in the moat kept her up all night the night of their wedding. The people of Budingem collected the frogs and they tried to drown them in the creek. The frogs came back the next night, they repeated the event. The princess eventually stayed. No one knows if it's true or not, but it is a nice story.

Jim asked if Erich received the letter from our mayor. They confirmed that the letter and gift arrived.

By the end of the call, relations have definitely become better.

adj 10:29 a.m. JoAnne 1st, Jim 2nd