

## Sister Cities Commission Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2015

Present: Committee Co-Chair Laura Elster, Committee Co-Chair Jack Elster; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane DeVos Tyssen; Commissioners: Marilyn Bill; Lucas Hawley, Pet Petrovich; Jerry Jablonski, Community Observer.

Absent: Trustee Liaison T.J. Grady

- Minutes and Agenda were read and approved. Laura Elster approved, Jack Elster 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Marilyn Bill updated the Commission on the Illinois Sister City (ISC) meeting that she attended on April 18<sup>th</sup> in Naperville. She passed out a brochure for the ISC that was at the convention.

Marilyn noted that many of the ISC's did not do exchanges but were more humanitarian in nature of their relationship – sending monetary donations or in-kind goods such as fire trucks to Mexico, medical training to Russia/former Soviet countries, or emergency supplies (water purification tablets, blankets, etc.).

She typed up a recap of the meeting and handed out copies to the Commissioners.

- Roxane and Peg offered to reach out to Mallow with regards to a trip in 2016. T.J. had told Laura and Jack that Dave Seaman would also call the mayor of Mallow to open up dialog as well. It was noted that in Ireland, they refer to sister cities as “Twinning” cities.

We are looking at a July 2016 visit, somewhere between July 10 and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Roxane will begin to put together binders of all SCC materials – Minutes, hand outs, etc.
- Laura updated the Commission on the single exchange student, Paul Harmon. He will be staying with the Burningham family who has also hosted students before. She will also be the Local Coordinator for the American Cultural Exchange Services (ACES) organization. She is certified by the State Department through them and will visit with Paul and the host family throughout his stay here. He is scheduled to arrive between August 6 and 8, 2015 and will remain here for the duration of the school year.

We should be looking at doing some kind of welcome for him and his host family. Laura will talk to Pat Rea about this.

The Commission will talk to the school about trying to make this a regular type of

exchange.

- Marilyn has not yet contacted anyone regarding the elementary school pen pal project. Before the next meeting she will try to connect with the principal at Prarieview in SD 140.

The SCC will need to design a template for students to fill out that will introduce them to the German students. It will be up to the teachers on the German side to match with their students.

- No new business.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting is on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.