

SISTER CITIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Chairman Hiss

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Chairperson, Mike Hiss, Marilyn Bill, Lucas Hawley, Jim Muller

Members Absent: JoAnne Dykhuizen, Diane Przybylski, Jeannie Kirshbaum, George Rohde, Roxane DeVos Tyssen

Commission Secretary

Denise Maly-Politano (substitute)

Guests: Elyse Maloney

Additions/Revisions to Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and additions/revisions were made by Chairman Hiss.

Addition/revision to Item 5, Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2017. This item will be postponed for review and vote until the July meeting as it was not included in the packet.

Motion was made by Commissioner Muller to proceed with the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Hawley. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the motion carried.

Motion to adjust the June 10th meeting voting to be at the July meeting was made by Commissioner Muller, seconded by Commissioner Hawley. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hawley, seconded by Commissioner Bill to accept the revised Agenda for June 21, 2017. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the motion carried.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- a. Chairman Hiss reviewed the May 17, 2017 minutes as submitted and requested a change to reflect his last name being spelled properly from Hess to Hiss.

Motion was made by Commissioner Bill, seconded by Commissioner Hawley to accept the corrections to the May 17, 2017 minutes. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hawley, seconded by Commissioner Muller to approve the revision to the May 17, 2017 minutes with revisions. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the motion carried.

Sister City Updates

- a. Budingen Skype Conference –Commissioner Lucas Hawley reported that the Skype Conference was held on June 10, 2017 and was very successful. Participants included Chairman Edda Sieglinde. Had a nice conversation about recording the meeting, his visit on July 5th, and their future plans to visit Tinley Park. Clerk Thirion joined in the conference, great ice breaker. She speaks German, has visited Germany a few times, helped reestablished a good relationship and good rapport with our Sister City and we plan on continuing that going forward.

Chairman Hiss stated that it was nice to see Robert Zimmer in attendance. This was the first time he has seen actual village support at one of our sessions and with this new regime we have had the village clerk, the mayor and the mayor's assistant involved. The mayor was very apologetic that he was not able to make the Skype session and sent a follow-up email. Helps with rapport and feels this is a step in the right direction.

- b. Budingen Delegation – Commissioner Hawley reported on Budingen delegation and stated that his time in Tinley Park will be very limited as he is traveling a lot. He is leaving for Budingen July 5th. Knows there was talk with the mayor's office about getting something to bring to Budingen when he visits. Not sure what that will be, let him know of any ideas. Planning on preparing a gift for Edda as a thank you for hosting and looking for other suggestions besides beer and wine. (Discussion on possible gift ideas, how to transport, likelihood of gifts arriving in one piece). Commissioner Muller suggested a sweet, white wine and possibly cakes/bakery. Chairman Hiss will contact 350 for gift ideas and Rob Zimmer to see if they mayor's office/village would like Commissioner Hawley to bring anything.

Commissioner Bill suggested bringing various postcards to be used for ornaments or can be enlarged for pictures/posters.

Secretary Denise Maly-Politano suggested Frango mints or Fannie May candies. Chairman Hiss thought it was an excellent idea and will get candy from Fannie May.

- c. Mallow Sister City Update – Commissioner Muller reported he met with committee members, the secretary/treasurer, the contact for Tinley Park and the County Court Commissioner as they do not have a mayor. Skype is the biggest thing to get up to speed and knowing who they are. Had a great time. Filled up the day by golfing and fishing. One tour guide knew much about Mallow. 2-3 hour walking tour. Talked about castles, church and how it was in disarray. In Ireland you are taxed on the roof of your dwelling so if you do not fix your roof you do not pay taxes in Ireland. They had a church they were trying to bring back but the government decided they were not going to repair it. Mallow is looking forward to Tinley getting in contact with them and going there to visit again. We need to reach out to our community and find out if anyone is interested in

going there. Met with President of Mallow (Pat) who is more of a village manager. Stayed at a hotel, flew into Dublin, rented a car and drove to Mallow. From there drove west, north and back to Dublin. Driving is on the opposite side and extremely difficult as streets are very narrow and you are driving a stick shift on hills and also trying to avoid the sheep in the road. Town of Mallow is very interesting because they are trying to modernize but leave the old buildings. Buildings are from the 1400s and they are literally putting modern buildings around them. If we can somehow work on getting more Tinley Park residents to visit there, that would be great.

Chairman Hiss asked about tentative dates for a Skype conference with Mallow, possibly in July. After discussion, the tentative date is Saturday, August 26, 2017 at 8:45 a.m., Central Standard Time. He will make the arrangements and confirm Mallow representatives are available on that date. We will try to Skype with Budingén again in September.

- d. Prospective Sister City Updates – Poland and Austin, Texas. Chairman Hiss stated that the mayor has expressed interest in both cities and he will be meeting with Rob Zimmer at the end of this month to start hammering out some of those agreements or at least a first draft. Assuming there will be changes as neither Rob nor he have ever done this before. Similar to what we already have with Budingén and Mallow. Seem pretty standard but expecting changes. Happy the current mayor wants to move forward with this. This will bring the current number to four, thinks it is a good number to balance with the current size.
- e. Cultural Exchange program – Chairman Hiss was hoping that Joanne was going to be at the meeting to discuss. Hopefully he can get in touch with Joanne and see what is going on as she has missed at least two meetings in a row now.
- f. TPSC Artwork Collection – Chairman Hiss has been playing phone tag with Sue. Last voice message seemed like the library would be giving us pictures to be put on a flashdrive and give it to Commissioner Hawley so that he can bring it on his trip and also provide the same to Mallow. Commissioner Muller stated that he spoke with Julie from Vogt Art Center who would be very interested in doing something. Commissioner Bill stated that the paintings will be on display at the library until June 30th. A whole piece was in the newsletter showing the pictures and the Budingén coat of arms. We need to get them from the library on the 30th but Commissioner Bill would like to store the pieces in the vault so she does not have to assume responsibility. Chairman Hiss said some of the pieces will be put into the display case, others in the vault. He will be getting a key.

Chair Hiss entertained a motion to allow up to 10 pieces of artwork to go to the Tinley Park Vogt Art Center.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hawley, seconded by Commissioner Bill to bring the artwork collection to the Vogt Art Center to be displayed June 30, 2017 until December 31, 2017. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the motion carried.

- g. TPSC Branding Logo – Chair Hiss thanked Commissioner Mueller for the style guide. Chair Hiss stated that it is very easy to match up various colors and fonts. Chairman Hiss also reviewed an email regarding the village logo, what you can/cannot do, the style guide, different fonts you are allowed to use and different ways to implement the logo. The logo is not official yet. He will start formatting the agendas using the style guide and make it more official.
- h. TPSC Promotional Materials – George is not here to discuss ideas. He was going to get pricing on mini-calendars, combined calendars, lapel pins, key chain flashlights, USB splitter, etc.
- i. Community Engagement – Chair Hiss stated that it seems like we are getting more noise from the community. More noise = more people showing up at meetings and being involved. Hopes to get access to Facebook page from Roxanne. Once a week would like to have updates/pictures to share with community and generate interest. Received at least 3 emails from people interesting in getting on commission. We are now maxed out. Facebook presence and the new branding should get the community more engaged.
- j. Seeking Internship Opportunity for Budingen Student in Sports Industry - Chair Hiss is trying to follow-up with the library for the intern. Would like to arrange a competition or a tournament and he would see how they run the event. Intern here for one week in October which makes it a difficult sell. Does speak fluent English.
- k. Christkindlmarket Chicago – Chair Hiss would like to schedule a visit. The market typically begins on Black Friday, which will be November 24th this year and runs up until Christmas Eve. After discussion the visit is tentatively set for December 9th.

New Business

- 2018 Visitation from Budingen Residents. Chair Hiss stated Edda indicated she is hoping to get 30-40 visitors willing to travel to Tinley Park. We need to find host families. We will have this on the public agenda for July 5th or July 19th to meet with the village board. Working with the village clerk for exact wording as to what we need. Need to get the list from Roxane for the contact numbers and we will need help with contacting individuals to see if they want to host. Goal is to try to accommodate all visitors within Tinley Park. We need to plan fun things for them to do during their 2018 trip.
- 2020 Visitation to Budingen, Germany – need Tinley Park residents to visit Germany. Commissioner Bill inquired if anybody brought up the Rick idea? Or TV station?
- Chair Mike Hiss would like to set up a Goggle Drive account. There would be 15g free with any Gmail account and you can share with anybody.
- Expanding the Sister City Commission - Chair Hiss stated it will set a precedent. Hopefully make people more accountable and involved. Thinks it might be time to expand and make a proposal to the village board to expand the commission, especially with two new Sister Cities being added. Commissioner Muller thinks 8-9 people on the commission is enough, even with the four different cities. Thinks an ultimatum should be given as some have not attended a meeting yet. If they don't want to be involved they should be replaced. It should be mandated that they attend a certain number of meetings a year or not be allowed to be on the committee. Commissioner Hawley agreed. Chair Hiss thinks that 8-12 meetings should be mandatory, which would be 75%. Likes the idea of making meetings more accountable, would go to mayor with idea. Need to find

out if we can recommend removal to the village board. Will send reminder email with agenda links and set up an automatic email reminder. Commission Bill likes the program for sign-up such as what was done for Discover Tinley volunteers.

Annual Review

Chair Hiss acknowledged this is our 12th meeting as a commission and also our 12th straight meeting. As a team we have been able to reestablish communication with Budingen and now Mallow. Now able to engage more with the Sister Cities via Skype. Now have a new regime. Chair Hiss has noticed a different response from village and the new regime. Good foundation, getting commission engaged as a team and we have pushed forward. We will start getting more delegations also.

Commissioner Bill stated there has been very good leadership.

Commissioner Muller stated he briefly talked about buttons for Christkindlmarket and lapel pins, jelly bracelets. We can even use these items to give out at parades. We will have someone at the next meeting regarding the music portion.

Chair Hiss recommended contacting Donna about buttons. Anything we can get from the village would be a nice token.

Chair Hiss stated the annual year begins in July. Hopefully the changes will make people more accountable. Most of the work needs to be done during the meetings. Wants to have the 75% attendance at meetings mandatory. Commission Hurley asked if this will create a precedent or would this only be for the Sister City Commission? Chair Hiss stated this would be a precedent for all commissions.

Receive Comments from the Public:

- No comments from the public.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner Hawley, seconded by Commissioner Bill to adjourn the June 21, 2017 Sister Cities meeting. Vote by voice. Chairman Hiss declared the meeting adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.