

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission Minutes

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

7:00 p.m. Kallsen Conference Center

Call to Order 7:01 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, Jim Muller and George Rohde

Absent: Staff Liaison: Dominic Sanfilippo

Recognition of the resignation of JoAnne Dykhuizen as a commissioner on the Sister Cities Commission. Chairman Patrick Rea acknowledged all the work that she and her family have done for the Village of Tinley Park. She will be missed and we wish her well.

How the public is addressed when they attend a meeting was discussed. In the past, we have modeled the agenda to have them address the Commission at the end of the meeting. Going forward, Chairman Rea would like it to be so that when the public is in attendance, they can cordially address the Commission at any point in time. All agreed that this would be acceptable unless it becomes problematic to the function of the Commission meeting.

Minutes were reviewed and read from June 19, 2019. George motioned to approve the minutes as presented, Lucas seconded; all were in favor. The motion passed and minutes have been approved.

Sister City Updates:

Büdingen Update:

- 2019 Visitations: Commissioner Lucas Hawley reminded the Commission that this trip was not an official delegation to recognize the 30th anniversary, that this was a social visit by himself and Commissioner Muller. Lucas and Jim then gave a recap of their visit to Büdingen, Lucas mentioned that Edda Denegart had hurt her back and was not participating in the activities as much as she normally would. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Lucas mentioned that there were two other Büdingen sister cities present during the Medieval Fest this year. Their sister cities from Bruntál in the Czech Republic and from Sebeş in Romania, whose members were also in town for the Medieval fair festival this year.

***Post meeting clarification, Sebeş/Mühlbach is located in Transsylvania near Sibiu.**

Discussions were paused and Chairman Rea asked the Commission to motion to appoint Lucas Hawley as the vice-chair of the Commission. George made the motion to accept Lucas as the vice-chair, Jim seconded, all approved. The motion carried.

- 30-Year Anniversary:

We have been officially invited to visit Büdingen to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between the Village of Tinley Park and Büdingen, Germany.

- Invitations:

It has been requested that Mayor Vandenberg and members of the Village Board have been asked to attend. Their Christmas market is December 5-7, 2019. This visit will coincide with the anniversary and both Büdingen and Tinley Park will recognize the occasion at that time. A delegation from Tinley Park will visit to Büdingen [all individuals will pay their own way]. The Commission conversed as to who will be attending. Chairman Rea and the Commission will reach out to the mayor, and the Village Board, Historical Society members, previous host families, and others who have participated in exchanges to query anyone who is interested and will be in attending. Our goal is to have a group of 20 to 25 people traveling there.

We should be able to confirm with Büdingen a number of for those that will be traveling there by October 1, 2019. A hard deadline to confirm attendance will be November 1, 2019.

- Suggested sites to visit:

While the winter weather conditions were considered, the Commission offered suggestions on what the group would be interested in doing. A tour of castle Ronnenberg is definitely a site of significance and it should be included on the list. St. Mary's Church (also known as the Church of Our Lady), a historic brewery visit was also discussed for the brewery in Michelau. Taking a tour of the cathedral in the old city of Büdingen has been mentioned. Additionally it was suggested to spend a day in Frankfurt. It is either 2 train rides away, or if you venture into the next town over, it would only be one train trip away.

- Gift:

We have previously looked into the 30th Year Anniversary visit to Büdingen and a gift for this event. George had done some research on what we were thinking of which included a statue with a clock and/or globe. Chairman Rea will reach out to the Vogt Arts Center to see if they can post a notice for local artists to create a gift to present to Burgermeister (mayor) Erich Spammer and the city of Büdingen to formally recognize the 30th sister (twinning) city anniversary.

- Motion has been made by George that we work with the Vogt Arts Center to hold a contest for local artisans in which the winner's artwork will be displayed in Büdingen. A stipend for the winning artist was discussed as well. Jim seconded the motion, all in favor, the motion carried.

Mallow Sister City Update:

- Commissioner Hawley spoke with Cllr. John Paul O'Shea roughly two weeks ago. It was to touch base and personally congratulate him on his reelection.
- Pat suggested that we make an effort to pursue specifically the city of Mallow and not County Cork (Mallow was absorbed into County Cork during the changes the government made with the government restructuring) as it now stands. We would like to focus more on the city to city relationship and not County Cork to Tinley Park.
 - We will need to outline the needs of the sister city relationship as we see it. Chairman Rea will reach out to the city of Mallow to see if they would like to be active participants, otherwise we may need to also look at finding another sister city within Ireland in addition to Mallow.
 - As the dialog continued, the Commission looked to define what we are looking for in a sister city. Mentioned visitation (people - adult and student - exchanges), cultural exchanges (music, art - all mediums, culinary, etc.), and lastly regular contact, even if only to say hello to let each other know that we are in our thoughts.

Discussions turned to how Mallow originally became a sister city through the suggestion of Trustee Matthew J. Heffernan in 2001. It was recommend that we involve the Assistant Village Manger, Pat Carr, for suggestions on how to reach out to the Irish community within Tinley Park and the immediate area. Chairman Rea will also talk to him about being an in-between between Ireland and Tinley Park if need be as he has strong connections there.

- One of things to consider for future events that recognize our relationship with Mallow and Ireland in general would be the St. Patrick's Day Parade here in Tinley Park. We would have to find enough people who would be willing to march in the parade with us.

Prospective Sister City Updates:

- Nowy Sacz, Poland - Update:
 - Approach Nowy Sacz. The Polish Consulate liked Tinley Park, and wanted to twin us with the Nowy Sacz,

Pat will try to call the counsel general who originally set up the relationship. He is still in touch with them, and what his opinion is as to how we should approach it going forward.

- Canadian Sister City:
The Commission is open to looking into the possibility of having a Canadian sister city. Chairman Rea will begin to look into what our options are.

Upcoming/Continuing Business:

- Discussion of a Jordanian sister city. Mr Ihssan Sweiss, Honorary Consul General has an interest in pursuing a sister city with Tinley Park. Chairman Rea suggested next steps to make introductions with the commissioners. This would put all interested parties on the same page and allow him to offer suggestions for an ideal match.

Open/New Business:

- Invoices:
Chairman Patrick Rea signed off on two previously approved invoices. Payment for dues to Sister Cities International and reimbursement to Roxane Tyssen for the new Sister Cities Banner.
- There will be a visit by Prince Ludwig in September, 2019 for a wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary relationship between the two cities.
- Commissioner Recommendations:
Pat Maloney approached Commissioner Hawley and is interested in being a commissioner. She has previously hosted international guests before, through and with the Sister Cities Commission and through her church.

Chairman Rea will also will have someone from the Historical Society that will be presented to us for the next meeting.

Three commissioners are needed to fill empty Commissioner slots (the Commission has a total of nine commission slots). It was also brought up that the Commission can also have up to three additional Associate Commissioners. Chairman Rea would like for the Commission to review all recommendations before the Village Board appoints anyone.

The question of whether or not the Commission should have a Trustee liaison in addition to a staff liaison was addressed.

- Through a friend of Chairman Rea, we may also have an interest in having a sister/twinning city in Norway.
- Our attendance at Tinley Park's Oktoberfest was mentioned. We need to make sure that we have a spot there. Commissioner Tyssen will look into this.

Public Comments:

- No public comments.

Commissioner Tyssen motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Muller seconded. All approved.
Meeting adjourned 9: 08 p.m.

The next meeting will be August 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.