

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission
Special Meeting
Minutes

Saturday, November 2, 2019
7:00 p.m. Kallsen Conference Center

Call to Order 9:12 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners present were recognized.

Recognize Commission members present: Chairman Patrick Rea; Secretary/ Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Marilyn Bill, Lucas Hawley, and Jim Muller
Staff Liaison: Dominic Sanfilippo
Absent: Commissioners Sarah Krause and George Rohde
Guests: Michael Hiss, Dave Niemeyer, and Edda Degenhardt (via video conference call from Büdingen, Germany)

Sister City Updates:

Büdingen 30th Anniversary Trip:

- We reviewed the traveler list with Edda. There will be 10 individuals traveling to Germany at their own expense.
- Individual arrival and departure dates and times were reviewed with Edda. We next discussed traveler accommodations; the Commission reviewed who will be needing a host family and who will not (some will be staying at a hotel, others at an airB&B).
- Chairman Rea discussed the Ronneburg Castle and that it is a "must-see" amongst the entire group. Edda told us about the largest/tallest Christmas "candle", known as the Schlitz Christmas Candle, located in Schlitz, Germany. It is a tower in the town that is decorated to look like a candle for the holiday season that is believed to be the world's non-wax candle. She also mentioned a stop at a whiskey distillery that is nearby the candle. There will be a full day for the Christmas market in Büdingen, an Anniversary dinner celebration will be held either Friday or Saturday night (she needs to contact their Bürgermeister - Mayor, Erich Spamer to coordinate this with him).
- Chairman Rea inquired about the Kaserne in Gelnhausen, which is near Büdingen. He mentioned that this may be a point of interest for our officials visiting there. The location is where the Syrian asylum-seekers have been housed since 2016 and was previously a U.S. Army base located there.

- The artwork piece was discussed. The "canvass" (pen & ink on paper) will be wrapped and rolled but will need to be framed there. Roxane will provide the dimensions to Edda which will be specified by the artist and will include the size of the artwork, the size of the matting, and the size of the frame as specified by the artist. This is the 30th Anniversary Gift Presentation from The Village of Tinley Park to the citizens, Twinning/Sister City members, and government of Büdingen. The Twinning City members in Büdingen have spoken with Burgermeister Spammer and this will all be done at a celebration dinner.
- We inquired as to what we should anticipate as far as transportation to and from the airport to Büdingen. Edda informed us that it will be handled on their end. She will relay this information to myself and Dominic before the trip. Several of us will be arriving at the same time, which should make things easier as it will be only one pick up versus several individual.

2020 Visit to Büdingen:

- We touched upon the "normal" visitation schedule, visits from each side every two years. As the 30th Anniversary trip is not part of that, the Commissioners discussed a possibility of a 2020 visitation. We will create an invite and open the invitation for residents interested in going. In the summer of 2020, it will be the alternating festival for the art festival (it alternates with a Medieval Faire). Since it is an art fair in 2020, we have been asked to open it up to our local artisans. Roxane will create this invite and work with the Village to circulate.

2022 Visit to Tinley Park:

- This was put on the agenda to just keep as a reminder that they will be visiting Tinley Park again in 2022. A short discussion included some of the local sights to keep in mind for some day or overnight trips.

Public Comments:

- Michael Hiss was welcomed (he is a past Chair of the Commission). Michael mentioned that he and his wife are hoping for a 2020 visit. He also stated that they have moved closer back to Tinley Park and he hopes to become a somewhat regular public at our meetings. Dave Niemeyer mentioned that he was looking forward to the trip as he has never been to Büdingen before.

Lucas motioned to adjourn, Roxane seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be a regularly scheduled SCC meeting on November 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.