

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission Minutes

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

7:00 p.m. Village Chambers

The April 17, 2021 meeting was held via conf. call and in-person

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Recognize Commission members present: Chairman/Commissioner Patrick Rea; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Marilyn Bill, Lucas Hawley, Jim Muller, George Rohde, Michele Rons, and Rob Zimmer
- Staff Liaison: David Niemeyer
- Absent: Commissioner, Sarah Krause; Associate Commissioners Julie and Kurt Dekker; Trustee Liaison: William Brady

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of March 17, 2021 Sister Cities Commission Meeting Minutes: Michele Rons made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, Lucas Hawley seconded; All in favor. Motion to approve March 17, 2021 minutes passed.

Sister City Updates:

Büdingen, Germany Update:

- Travel to and within Germany is still under tight restrictions.
- The Commission discussed the funding relief for the flooding in Büdingen.
 - Dave Niemeyer stated that a donation of \$10,000 was made to the city of Büdingen, \$3105 was raised through private donations; an additional \$500 was donated at the meeting along with another pledge which will raise the total in private donations;
 - The Village Board authorized making up the difference for a grand total of \$10,000 to be donated;
 - They are still cleaning up some areas that were flooded; restorations of structural damages may take upwards of a year to complete due to the historic status/age of the buildings;
 - Pat will reach out to Torsten to see if he can get an update from him as well;
- The Commission has not had any artists contact us with regards to the Büdingen Bench Project.

Mallow, Ireland Update:

- The Commission agreed to go forward with a resolution from the Village Board to acknowledge the anniversary. This is not on the Village Board Agenda yet but it looks like it will be adapted on May 18. Dave Niemeyer invited any commissioners who are available to attend the meeting.

Nowy Sącz, Poland:

- The sign for Nowy Sącz has been delivered and was presented at the meeting. Discussions were had on when to install it.

Prospective Sister Cities:

Jordan:

- Until travel restrictions ease, we are on hold for formal declarations but the Commission is committed to going forward with establishing an official sister cities relationship with Aqaba.

Canada:

- Nothing to report. The Commission would like to establish a Sister Cities relationship with a city in Canada but to date, no specific town has been named.

Bir Ziet:

- Guest speaker, Tinley Park resident, Mr. Taysir Abusumayah, presented to the Commission the interest of creating a Sister Cities relationship with Bir Zeit in Palestine.
 - He handed out a presentation and outlined the history of the city, its location, and the University of Bir Ziet;
 - Types of possible exchanges were discussed, this relationship could open up opportunities for international studies exchanges between BirZiet University there and perhaps Governors State University here.
- Mr. Abusumayah offered resources to aid in facilitating the relationship between the two cities.

New and Upcoming Business:

- Municipality of Ghadamis, Libya
 - Dave Niemeyer reported on an opportunity between Ghadamis Libya and the Village of Tinley Park to develop a mentoring program for government studies which could lead to a Sister Cities relationship;
 - Pat Rea provided the background and history of this area;
 - The development of this mentoring program is on the international radar as it will be the first of its kind in the country;
 - All of the Commissioners are behind this project and will help in any way needed; several also voiced interest in traveling there at some point should it develop into a formal Sister Cities relationship;
- Commissioner Marilyn Bill announced to the Commission that due to personal circumstances she had submitted her resignation from the Commission.
 - She was asked to stay on as an Associate Commissioner and she agreed.

Old Business:

- None.

Public comments:

- Mr. Abusumayah spoke with the Commissioners about furthering discussions to progress with the relationship between BirZiet and Tinley Park.

Adjourned:

- Roxane Tyssen motioned to adjourn, Michele Rons seconded, all were in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.