

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission Meeting Minutes April 15, 2015

Members Present-

Co-Chairs: Laura and Jack Elster; Secretary: Roxane DeVos Tyssen; Commissioners: Marilyn Bill, Lucas Hawley; Trustee Liaison: T. J. Grady

Members Not Present-

Commissioners: Joanne Dykhuizen, Peg Petrovich and Diane Przybylski; Community Liaison Jerry Jablonski

Chairman Jack Elster called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

Motion to approve agenda for tonight's meeting: Commissioner Jack Elster; Second, Commissioner Tyssen.

Minutes for March 2015 were read, approved with amendments. Commissioner Bill second.

Guest: Albee Schroeder

Trustee Report

- New Trustees will be coming on board.
- Budget - the budget will be approved by April 22, 2015. There will be enough money in the SCC budget to get a sign for events such as Discover Tinley. It should be approximately \$5,000.

Chair Report

- Nothing will need to be done for any Budingens visitors that may be coming.
- Jack and Laura recapped Discover Tinley:
 - There was a low turnout from both vendors and attendees.
 - Not many small businesses other than food vendors.
 - There seemed to be an abundance of large, corporate -type businesses.
 - Not many service-based businesses.
- Lucas mentioned that Discover Tinley also coincided with spring break. Trustee Grady said that it was scheduled somewhat later this year due to conflicts at the convention center.
- Looking at a possible Budingens visit in 2016 and a Mallow, Ireland visit in 2017.
- It was suggested that we should have a table at the German Market in December. This will be looked into.
- Discussions on whether or not to try to set up a pen-pal exchange between SD 146 and students in Budingens. Have the teachers pair up students and let it start from there. The idea behind this is to engage younger students so that when they get to high school they will be engaged in activities such as German Club or German language classes. Vern Bettis is the contact at SD 146. Planning Director Donna Framke and Amy Connelly are both Village employees who are involved with the SD 146 school board and can also be a resource in this area.
- Laura is still working on the single student exchange for the fall start. The student will arrive in late August.

- It was mentioned that we should we also look at establishing business exchanges such as internships for students on both sides. Expenses will be covered by the individuals and the businesses.
- Laura handed out information on Sister City International. They have a membership area and she would like for each commissioner to sign up to join. Next month ideas about the site can be discussed.
 - Contact information for pen pals and businesses.
 - Liaison for Mallow, Ireland
- Will need to replace commissioners Joanne Dykhuizen and Diane Przybylski as they will be outgoing by the end of the month. Suggested Albee Schroeder and Jerry Jablonski.
- A Facebook page has been set up for the Tinley Park SCC.
- Laura discussed creating a logo specifically for the TPSCC. Adding flags or the crest of each Sister City.
- Laura will need to contact Jason Freeman with regards to setting up a SCC website or subsite at tinleypark.org. He is the Village IT specialist.
- Marilyn Bill reviewed the IL Sister City Convention agenda. She and Wally will attend some of the workshops on Saturday.

New Business

- Tinley Park Historical Association is looking for information on Mallow and Nowy Sącz and asked us if we had anything.
- We will invite Mayor Zabrocki to an upcoming meeting. Laura suggested it be the May meeting for a brief Q&A. Other than a friending agreement on the Sister City International site, there is nothing on Nowy Sącz that we know of.
- We should look into choosing some tentative dates for Mallow and Büdingen trips. Mallow should be sometime during the summer of 2016 and Büdingen sometime the summer of 2017. As far as we know, Mallow has no host-family culture. Hotels would be needed for this visit.
- Commissioner Tyssen volunteered to reach out to Mallow.

Old Business

- None

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned 8:17 p.m.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting – May 20, 2014