

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission Meeting Minutes September 16, 2015

Members Present-

Chair: Laura Elster; Secretary: Roxane DeVos Tyssen; Commissioners: Marilyn Bill, Jack Elster, Peg Petrovich, Laura Albee Schroder,

Members Not Present-

Commissioners: Joanne Dykhuizen, Lucas Hawley, Jeannie Kirshbaum ; Trustee Liaison Bernie Brady; Community Liaison Jerry Jablonski

Chairman Laura Elster called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Guests: Mayor Dave Seaman, Village Manager Dave Niemeyer, Resident Claudia Roache

Mayor Seaman opened discussions. The question of what exactly defines a quorum were brought up. He said he would address legal to redefine the Village's current determination of what is and what is not a quorum.

He explained that current ordinances do not provide for a commission co-chair. Laura Elster has been appointed Sister City Commission Chair and Jack Elster is a Commissioner.

The Mayor explained that Trustee Grady is no longer the SCC Trustee Liaison and that Trustee Brady will be our new liaison going forward. He also explained that the Village often moves Trustee's from commission to commission.

Mayor Seaman said that Ivan Baker can help with our ideas on developing an internship program with our sister cities. He has been on Chamber trips and recently visited Austin, TX. He agreed that this could be a good way to facilitate a relationship between our sister cities as well as with the Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce.

Laura Elster introduced Claudia Roache as a potential commissioner to the attendees.

Trustee Report

- Trustee Brady was not present.

Chair Report

- Mallow - we are having difficulty getting communications with them. The potential visit to Mallow, Ireland has been tabled for the time being. The Commission will revisit after Peg speaks with Christine at St. Xavier (see below).
- The last meeting was reviewed with the Mayor.
- The exchange student is here, playing soccer and is overall adjusting well. Paul Hermann was the Buffalo Wild Wings student athlete of the month. Chair Elster brought attention to the issues he is having regarding a cell phone here. His parents do not appear to be willing to pay for what it costs for a cell phone in the U.S., they are looking at what it costs in Germany.

- It cost Paul's family around \$3500 USD to send him here (visa, fees, etc.) that was paid to Sister Cities International. His airfare was additional to that.
- Commissioner Laura Albee Schroder has been in touch with the family for her home check visit.
- It was brought up that we should also work with banks and clubs (Rotary, VFW, etc.) to co-host interns.
- Regarding the Mallow visit, Peg mentioned that every time they came here, there was a purpose to their visit, i.e. develop business relations, St. Patrick's Day celebrations, etc. Ideas that were mentioned were cooking exchanges, sports, and arts exchanges.
- Chair Elster received a letter from Büdingen. They expressed concern of the ongoing relationship with the changes in leadership in Tinley Park and within the Sister City Commission. She will reach out to Etta Degenhardt in Büdingen to address these matters.
- Marilyn is waiting to hear back from Ms. Roth regarding the pen-pal program the SCC is looking to implement.

New Business

- Guest Claudia Roache mentioned that Lewis University in Romeoville has a German program and exchange students. She stated that we may benefit by reaching out to them as well. Additionally, the Irish exchange and studies programs at St. Xavier were also mentioned. Mayor Seaman suggested reaching out to Christine Wiseman at St. Xavier as he is on their President's Advisory Committee. Peg will follow up with St. Xavier.
- SCC will be participating in the Tinley Park German Market. Please mark calendars for the first week of December.
- We should also participate in the Tinley Park St. Patrick's Day parade. It will be held on either March 5th or 12th.
- Chair Elster will resend the links to the Sister City International site

Old Business

- None

Adjournment

- Previous meeting minutes for June were read, Chair Elster approved, Commissioner Elster 2nd.
- Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting – October 21, 2015