



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Draft Sister City Planning Committee

*Rachel Westergren
Keiko Skow
Gerald Greenfield
William Pucci
Rev. Al Guetzlaff
Martine Albritton
Tom Kennedy
Dwayne Olsen
Richard H. Ehlert
Lisa Koenen
Alice Peterson
Joan Roehre
Maricela Tellez
Alderman Robert Anderson*

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

4:15 PM

City Hall, Room 304

Call To Order

Secretary's Report

Bob Anderson moved that the minutes of the November, 2009 meeting be approved; Rachel Westergren seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

For the benefit of new members, Treasurer Dick Ehlert explained the accounting system of our council, and delivered the following information:

Account number 101: - \$10,000

Account number 716 - \$0.00 (zero balance)

Old Business

Rev. Al prepared and distributed a list of suggested committee assignments, a directory of current council members and a meeting schedule to begin the 2010 campaign. All members present agreed with the committee assignments as proposed, and understood that we may be asked to work on any of the committees depending on the work load. We also saw the new and revised brochure of the Racine Sister City Council.

New Business

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction of our two newest members to the council—Alice Peterson and Maricela Tellez, both of whom were in attendance for the first time. Dustin Block, representing the Racine Post, spoke to the council about an idea he wants to promote with our help. Dustin would like to use our sister city connections in feature articles for his local online media outlet. With the potential for constructive coverage, council members were generally positive about his plans. We discussed strategies for making first contacts with each of the sister cities

(Aalborg, Montélimar, Oiso, and Zapotlanejo), explaining the project, and potentially finding a liaison person to help Dustin and the Racine Post pursue their goals. Rachel Westergren volunteered to be the point person from our council to gather pertinent information from the sister cities and deliver it to Dustin.

Chairman's Report

Rev. Al updated the council on the intern program with Montélimar. From May 10 to July 2, 2010, three students from France will serve their apprenticeships with Racine businesses. Educators Credit Union has agreed to host one such student, and two other local businesses are close to making a decision. The next task is to find host families for our French guests.

There was follow-up information on the plans to add a Chinese sister city. Rev. Al distributed an article from the December 15, 2009 Journal-Times which described a Chinese business delegation to our area. Mayor Dickert is eager to augment the business connection with a cultural aspect, and is anxious for the Sister City Council to play a vital role. It was agreed that our council would be well served by a person who is knowledgeable about Chinese culture and language, and council members suggested the names of several local individuals whom we could invite to an upcoming meeting.

Committee Report

Oiso – Keiko Skow reminded the group that it would be appropriate for us to send New Year's greetings to our sister cities.

Montélimar – No report

Aalborg – No report

Zapotlanejo – No report

Publicity and Information – No report

Expansion – Items previously discussed in Chairman's Report.

Adjournment

Bob Anderson moved and Joan Roehre seconded the motion to adjourn at 5:30 p. m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 4:30 p. m.