



**DRAFT**

January 18, 2022

---

## MINUTES

---

**Unless noted, all officially appointed Sister Cities representatives were in attendance.**

Absent: So Youn Park, Bolor Smith, Yoko Allen, Aidan Maher

**Staff attending:** Councilmember Kristina Martens, At-Large Representative; Brooksana Raney, Mayor's Executive Assistant

Current Sister Cities roster can be found on the City website:

[Sister Cities Advisory Board Roster - City of Bellingham, WA \(cob.org\)](https://www.cob.org/sister-cities)

---

### Welcome

- President Grier welcomed members and guests.
- 

### Roll Call and Introductions

Since the presence of representatives may be seen on the screen, via the Zoom platform, roll call was skipped.

- Visitors: Michelle Burton, Derek Moscato, Tim Shride, Scott Blume
- 

### Approval of Agenda

- No quorum but used as template for discussion.
- 

### Approval of July 2021 minutes

- No quorum. Will vote at the April 2022 meeting.
- 

### Approval of October 2021 minutes

- No quorum. Will vote at the April 2022 meeting.
- 

### City Reports



**Punta Arenas – Mary Hooker**

- Mary reached out again to the schools to inquire about interest in partnering with Bellingham students. There are currently not enough students to move forward with the film building project. Jeff Eastman reported (Mary was absent at the start of the meeting) Punta Arenas only had two participants. We really want 3-4 at least from each city to move forward in future.

Mary is reaching out to film students and other students outside of Spanish classes to gauge interest. Jeff and Mary will continue to try to get participants.

All student exchanges continue to be off the table.

**Cheongju – So Youn Park**

- Chair absent but stated in an email she had no report.

**Vaasa – Jeff Eastman**

- The Finlandia Foundation has submitted a grant proposal to do a film festival in late August or early September at the Fairhaven Firehouse. A beer may be made from Aslan to accompany the festival. More discussion to come.
- Councilmember Martens will write up a short bio and a picture to be sent to BSCA introducing her on the website.

**Tsetserleg – Bolor Smith**

- Chair absent.

**Tateyama – Yoko Allen**

- Chair absent.

**Port Stephens – Steve Racich**

- Mayor Ryan Palmer started his second term as Mayor.
- Lots of City events are being curtailed or cancelled due to COVID.
- Steve and Crystal (BSCA marketing) will be getting together to do some social media posts.
- On the Pt. Stephens website, there is a different date of the Sister Cities communion. Steve will work with his contact to ensure dates are correct.
- Steve and his counterpart at Port Stevens exchanged holiday greetings.



**Nakhodka – No Chair.**

---

### **Program Director Reports**

- None in attendance to report
- 

### **Old Business**

#### **Tatyama Garden**

- Brooksana has been in contact with Parks. The drawings they received were the same from several years ago. Jonathan Schilk wants to know how the pieces connect to each other.

#### **Film-Building Project**

- This was discussed during the city reports.
- 

### **New Business**

Condolence letter to Nakhodka – Many thanks to Tim Douglas for bringing this to the City's attention. The group found the letter very kind. It will be sent tomorrow.

New Year greeting letters – supply some information that may be helpful by end of month

Presentation to City Council – Ross will take the lead on this. Mary will assist on this.

Herald Advertising – The BSCA recently had an ad in the Bellingham Herald. There was response. This may be something done in other arenas in future.

Prospective Board Members –

Welcome Derek Moscato. He has been interested in the work of the Sister Cities. He is a professor at WWU, in journalism, since 2017. Born and raised in Canada. He sees connections to be made for his students, interested in research and engagement of the cities. Suggested the Western Front is another way to reach out to the community to share Sister Cities information. Ross stated Derek's connection with students would be very beneficial.

Mary asked if there has been a student lesson in this group. Ross stated there used to be one but it was challenging because of their short tenure.

Steve stated the Peace Grant may be of interest to a journalism student at WWU.



**City of Bellingham  
Mayor's Sister Cities  
Advisory Board**

Welcome Michelle Burton. She just moved to Bellingham in July and is retired diplomat from the State Department. She is interested in staying involved in diplomatic relations. She is aware of others in her line of work that also live in this area and will flag this group to them. People to people understanding is her love and she looks forward to using it to further relations.

Welcome Time Shride – His experience is in Japan and lived in Tokyo in early 80's as well as in Tateyama working directly with the sister city program. He wants to give back to Sister Cities mission. It gave direction to my life and look forward to supporting the mission.

**Announcements**

Holly Graham introduction – Holly was unable to join at this meeting. She will be taking over the bookkeeping duties for the BSCA.

Lifetime members greeting – Ross sent out new year greetings to the six lifetime members thanking them for their commitment. George Drake, who was a lifetime member, passed away last year.

BSCA membership 2022 greeting – Aidan and others are working on this to be sent out soon.

---

**Announcements**

- None

---

**Public Comment**

- None
- 

**Adjourn at 6:50 p.m.**

**Next meeting April 19, 2022, 5:30 p.m.**