



April 20, 2021

MINUTES

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

Absent: Bolor, Yoko, Crystal

Staff attending: Councilmember Pinky Vargas, 4th Ward; 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.cityofbellingham.org/sister-cities-advisory-board-roster)

Welcome

- Ross Grier, BSCA President welcomed all.
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Roll Call and Introductions

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

- Welcome Lauren McLanahan & Mary Hooker.
 - Mary is the department rep for the Spanish Department at Sehome. She is interested in cultural exchanges.
 - Lauren was a SC board member for several years and is a professor in the secondary education department.
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Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Ross Grier, seconded by Jeff Eastman.
 - Motion passed.
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Approval of January 2021 minutes

- Motion made by Councilmember Vargas, seconded by Ross Grier.
 - Motion passed.



Public Event Calendar

- During the year, there are several events pending expected to be virtual in lieu of the four Sister Cities Days that happen each year.
- There are other special categories of meeting topics that will also be virtual.
 - More details to come.

City Reports

Punta Arenas – Aidan Maher (stepping down)

- Preparing the Aslan beer launch this Thursday.
 - Mayor Fleetwood will go to Aslan for a photo op and enjoy the beverage. Councilmember Vargas will also be present.
- Welcome Mary Hooker who is interested in being the chair. Board members agree to move forward with recommending her appointment to the Mayor.
 - Brooksana will send Mary the application and will ask Mayor to review when received.

Cheongju – So Youn Park

- The WWU program is likely not to happen but hopeful for 2022.
 - Ross suggested So Youn speak with Allied Arts to see about doing a virtual “showing” of the artists who were chosen to go to the Bienalle.
 - She will check into this idea and report back.

Vaasa – Jeff Eastman

- Jeff has been in touch with Sage and there is a brewery interested in doing Finish Beer. This, or Tsetserleg, will be next in line.

Tsetserleg – Bolor Smith

- Chair absent

Tateyama – Yoko Allen

- Chair absent



Port Stephens – Steve Racich

- Steve has been speaking with Dawn Durand and the Russian Pac Rim Sailing has not yet been canceled.

Nakhodka – No Chair

- Ross stated at this time the Pac Rim event is still scheduled.
 - Dawn Durand is temporarily stepping in for this city since she is involved in the Pac Rim.
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Program Director Reports

- None in attendance to report
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Old Business

Board Member Drive report

- Ross shared information about the Sister Cities Association membership drive. For more information, contact the Sister Cities Association membership chair or president.

Million Trees

- No discussion at this meeting.
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New Business

Film Workshop

- Lauren is working on a film workshop to build a cross cultural film building event. This is a workshop for students/youth to do in conjunction with students in other cities.
 - Subject is Resemblances.
 - She's been in touch with contacts in our Sister Cities Finland, Japan, and Australia. More info is available at <https://filmbuilding.org/resemblances>
- Jeff Eastman will attend the welcome and provide Sister Cities information to the students who will be participating this Saturday evening, at 9PM.
- Screening of the completed projects will be Sunday May 2nd.



- Will be a Zoom screening.
- May do this again in the Summer or Fall.

Memorandum of Understanding of Roles between City/Mayor & BSCA

- This has been tabled at this time.

Virtual events planning

- Japanese Garden Design and the Future of Tateyama Japanese Garden
- Japanese Conversation Tea Time
- Tsetserleg Mongolian New Year
- Cheongju Craft Bienale Artisan Exchange
- Beer Tasting with Aslan
- Nakhodka 30th Anniversary Sailing Challenge
- Vaasa

Announcements

- None

Public Comment

- None
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Adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Next meeting July 20, 2021, 5:30 p.m.