



DRAFT

October 19, 2021

MINUTES

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

Absent: So Youn Park, Jeff Eastman, Yoko Allen, Bolor Smith

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.cob.org/sister-cities)

Welcome

- President Grier welcomed members and guests
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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.

- Visitors: Tim Douglas, Jeremy Ferrera
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Approval of Agenda

- Meeting did not have a quorum.
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Approval of April 2021 minutes

- Meeting did not have a quorum.
 - We will add this to our January 2022 meeting
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City Reports

Punta Arenas – Mary Hooker



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

- Focus has been trying to connect with Punta Arenas schools, both local and English school, and doing the film project but not been having a lot of luck.
- May look at ways to connect these students with Bellingham and Sehome High School.
- Working to build virtual connections.
- Ross suggested Mary contact the City's Mayor's office or request Mayor Fleetwood contact their Mayor.
 - Mary will try herself first and if no luck she will peruse Mayor Fleetwood's intervention.
 - She will also send the beer video that was created at Aslan for the Punta Arenas and being offered to new BSCA's new and renewing members. She will help foster a relationship between Aslan and the local brewery.
 - Mary will also send a copy of the video for Mayor Fleetwood and to review.
 - Mary and Brooksana will craft a letter from Mayor Fleetwood to their Mayor.

Cheongju – So Youn Park

- Chair absent but stated in an email she had no report.
 - Ross suggested to add the video to the BSCA and the COB website.

Vaasa – Jeff Eastman

- Jeff was unavailable to attend the meeting but let Brooksana know he had no report.
- In a written report from Jeff Eastman, stated he attended the local Finlandia Association's field trip and lunch at the Bread Lab in Burlington. Was very informative re: their research and work with farmers in their surrounding area and even further afield. He is also helping the Association plan for their December 5th Independence Day dinner to celebrate Finland's break from Russia.

Tsetserleg – Bolor Smith

- Chair absent

Tateyama – Yoko Allen

- Chair absent but stated in an email she had no report.
- Per Aidan he had spoken with Yoko who has suggested she would like to resign from the board and allow a new person to participate.
 - All members will share the opportunity with the community.



Port Stephens – Steve Racich

- Spoke with Ray Milton who stated the city was just emerging from a lock-down.
- Shared information about how membership drive happens in Bellingham.
- They will meet later in the month, and we hope to have more information about new activities on the horizon, after COVID.
- They have had some visitors from Tateyama recently.

Nakhodka – No Chair

Program Director Reports

- None in attendance to report
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Old Business

Peace Grants

- Jeremy Ferrera has uploaded the application for the 2022 Peace Grant to the BSCA website and application available on November 1st.
 - Up to \$1500 for someone in Bellingham to go to visit a Sister City and provide a presentation in return. Full details and application are on the BSCA website.
 - Brooksana will share with Mayor to see if he has any suggestions on where to contact.

Tatyama Garden

- Scott and Ross met with Nicole Oliver and provided her with some preliminary drawings.
- They believe Nicole has stated she would be in favor of the proposal but would need Mayor's approval.
 - pBrooksana will check in with Parks

Film-Building Project

- In a written report from Jeff Eastman, he stated, they were having difficulty finding student participants so decided to postpone. We are now soliciting input from Punta Arenas and Vaasa to pinpoint what time-frame dates would work best for them next spring.
- Mary Hooker stated the rough plans now are for second week of March for next project.



New Business

- Holly Graham has provided BSCA with the updated list of membership for the BSCA.
 - If Mayor Fleetwood is interested in using this list for contacting members, he may have access to it.
 - Aidan asked about the return to in-person.
 - The City is not yet prepared to return to face to face but Brooksana will keep this Board advised.
 - Looking forward Ross has is interested in the potential of the Mayor's office hosting a November 2022 BSCA All Member meeting.
 - As dates get closer, Ross will speak with Brooksana more about the possibility of providing City space.
 - Ross asked about the Council Leadership representation in 2022.
 - Councilmember Vargas shared a new representative will be chosen in January.
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Announcements

- None
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Public Comment

- None
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Adjourn at 6:29 p.m.

Next meeting January 18, 2022, 5:30 p.m.