



DRAFT

April 19, 2022

MINUTES

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

Absent: Aidan Maher, Bolor Smith

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 \(cob.org\)](#)

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.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of July 2021 minutes

- No quorum at this time.
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Approval of October 2021 minutes

- No quorum at this time.
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Approval of January 2022 minutes

- No quorum at this time.



City Reports

Punta Arenas – Mary Hooker

- Reaching out to the schools in Punta Arenas. Need to get film kits. We are still in a holding pattern

Cheongju – No chair

Vaasa – Jeff Eastman

- Will be voting for the peace grant and think the Intergenerational High School has applied and hopeful to go to Vaasa. Finlandia has received a grant for \$3000 for a film festival that will occur in November in the Firehouse Event Center in Fairhaven. Feature Finish films and the cross-cultural film project we did in past. There will also be a documentary from the Intergenerational HS, if they receive the grant, from their trip.
- Mayor has been invited to Vaasa too when he goes to Copenhagen. Suzanna is the contact.

Tsetserleg – Bolor Smith

- Chair absent

Tateyama – No chair

Port Stephens – Steve Racich

- Easier to travel in and out of Australia with the borders reopening. Attended the Cherry Blossom festival in Ferndale last week and ran into several friends of the Sister Cities. No information yet of when the official sister city relationship stated with Bellingham. Brooksana will look at the charter and get that to him. No Ski to Sea international team. Pac Rim regatta may return in two years.

Nakhodka – No chair



Program Director Reports

- None in attendance to report
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Old Business

Tatyama Garden

The City and representatives from Sister Cities met via Zoom. The project appears to be moving forward with Public Works and Parks. The group spoke about the current drawings. It appears the changes the SC wants are ones that COB can move forward. Next step is the designer return to meet and then get with Parks

Film-Building Project

- Jeff relayed they met this morning and it's too late in the school year and we will be waiting until the next year. Want to do this and include Punta Arenas. Maybe there is another way to link up the students
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New Business

Announcements

Reiterated spaces available on the board. Spoke about Tim and his interest.

Derek Moscato attended and is interested in being a part of the board. He has attended earlier meetings. Is a WWU professor and interested in finding ways for his students to get connected and learn more about the Sister Cities organization. May be interested in Nakhoodka, Vaasa and Punta Arenas because of their connection to hockey which could dovetail with Bellingham. If anyone has ideas that can connect WWU students to Sister Cities activities, he is interested. Public diplomacy and civic diplomacy.

Steve shared a little with Derek and the group about the Pac Rim Regatta.

Announcements

- None
- At the end of the meeting, we had a quorum and were able to agree to approve all the outstanding minutes.

Adjourn at 6:50 p.m.

Next meeting July 19, 2022, 5:30 p.m.