



DRAFT

July 19, 2022

MINUTES

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

Absent: Tim Schride, Mary Hooker, Steve Radich

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 April 2021 minutes

- No quorum at this time.
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City Reports

Punta Arenas – Mary Hooker

- Chair Absent

Cheongju – No chair



Vaasa – Jeff Eastman

- No report. Going to the Finlandia celebration at the end of the month in Naselle, OR. Ross added that Chris Bierman has agreed to make a Sister City beer from Aslan this fall.

Tsetserleg – Bolor Smith

- The summer festival (Naadam) was July 11-13. The Naadam Festival, Mongolia's biggest traditional holiday, featuring archery, wrestling and a horse race.
- Have not had a chance to speak with the governor as of late but is planning her future contacts.
- 22 Mongolian students received scholarships from Blue Sky Education Project. The funds are used for teachers' college and primary student tuition.

Tateyama – Tim Schride

- Chair absent

Port Stephens – Steve Racich

- Chair absent

Nakhodka – No chair

Program Director Reports

- None in attendance to report

Old Business

Member Event in Fall

Hold an in person event in fall for sister city members and those interested in joining. Ross met with Chris Bierman, but Chris is no longer available to be on the leadership team due to his changing work commitments.

Looking for other Sister Cities City Chair to see if someone else may be able to spearhead. Ross is meeting with a new potential board member later this week who may be interested in accepting this challenge. Derek will be working on the entertainment portion of the meeting.



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

Ross also asked if we should postpone since there is not a defined point person. The small group agreed at this meeting. This will be brought up again.

Location to be determined but may consider Bloedel Donovan Multi Purpose Room. When dates are identified, Brooksana will see if the space is available.

We would like to have Mayor Fleetwood to attend the gathering, if it works for his schedule.

Community Outreach

- Ross asked, does the City have a newsletter or way to alert all COB employees or the community? When the gathering comes together, we should reach out to the former city exchange.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

- Peace Grant – was awarded to Whatcom Intergenerational High School who plans to go to Vaasa in 2023 (staff) to expand their “phenomenon education” program. This is like Vaasa’s style of curriculum. Jeremy Ferrera, who spearheads the Peace Grant, was able to present the check with President Grier. Jeremy will be meeting with an event planner this month to see what type of ideas they can come up with to bring the Peace Grant to the forefront of the community.
- Records Training – Brooksana learned this is not required for this board to complete.
- Korean Students Visit – Tim Douglas has been working with Whatcom Community College and there are 10 students from Korea who have been granted visas. They will arrive in August. Brooksana and the Mayor’s office will be working together with Tim and WCC to have them visit City Hall.
- Ross asked if there was any news from the elementary student program from Cheongju. This is unknown if it’s happening.
- At the end of the meeting, we had a quorum and were able to agree to approve all the outstanding minutes.

Adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

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