

Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission: Extraordinary meeting for Travel Scholarship Approvals - Virtual Meeting

Date: April 17, 2023 at 4:30 PM - online.

Minutes:

In attendance:

Adrienne Ward
Claire Denton-Spalding
Michael Grinnell
Edward Herring (acting secretary)
Daman Irby
Kimberly Hayes
Stella Mattioli
Alicen Brown
Maxicilia Robinson - ex-officio

Not in attendance

[Sylvia New Strawn](#)
[Nana Akyeampong-Ghartey](#)
[Vivien Wong](#)
[Elizabeth Smiley](#)

The Travel Scholarship committee concluded its recommendations for travel scholarships but required the approval of the commission to offer the scholarships. This extraordinary meeting was scheduled for and limited to that purpose.

The meeting was called to order by Daman Irby at 4:34 pm. The meeting was chaired by Adrienne Ward, Chairperson of the Grants Committee.

Adrienne reviewed the rules established to manage the grants. We have 8K dollars assigned to this program. Adrienne clarified, with the intention to award 1K dollar to each successful applicant, however, that we had the right to redistribute funds to other applicants if there were funds available due to absence of applications or rejection of applications - which would result in a surplus of funds available.

Additionally, Adrienne Ward announced her immediate retirement from the role of Grants Committee Chair and recommended that a new Chairman be appointed to follow up on the decisions with the applicants.

Nine (9) proposals were received during the two (2) week period promotion period. There was one (1) proposal - Besancon related, three (3) proposals - Poggio related, and five (5) proposals related to Winneba. There was no Huehue proposal.

The Grants committee recommended approval for 4 programs with a total of 6K dollars.

1 application requested funding for 4 individual CHS students, to Poggio a Caiano, \$1000/apiece for a total of \$ 4000;

2 individual applications for travel to Winneba, \$1000/apiece for a total of \$ 2000.

The six applications that did not result in funding did not meet the criteria established by the CSCC - regarding travel objectives, either it did not align with our mission or focus enough on a specific Sister City, or the applicants were from outside our accepted geographic area.

There were questions concerning the lack of successful proposals from Besancon and Huehue, however, no action was taken. Commissioners noted that there will be ups and downs in terms of demand for travel to different cities over time; the recent sponsorship given to a CHS student group going to Besançon might account for the limited request for funding to go there.

Recommended Proposals

Three (3) proposals were recommended for approval by the Grants Committee.:

Poggio - Charlottesville High School (WC - 4 individuals)

Winneba - (DBT)

Winneba - (VCP)

Details of all proposals are available in the CSCC Google Drive.

A motion for approval of the recommended proposals was made by Kimberly Hayes and seconded by Claire Denton-Spalding.

The vote was unanimous - all eight (8) voting members present.

New Chairperson for the Grants Committee

Kimberly Hayes volunteered to chair the Grants Committee, starting immediately with the issuance of letters of rejection or acceptance to the applicants.

As a closing remark, [Claire Denton-Spalding](#) mentioned two upcoming concerts later this month here in Charlottesville by a pianist from Besancon and mentioned that more information would be coming out about this event.

Daman Irby brought the meeting to a close at 5:00 pm.

Sincerely,

Edward Herring