

Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission

MINUTES

January 3, 2024

City Space

Present: Edward Herring, Murray Susen, Stella Mattioli, Clare Denton-Spalding, Sylvia New Strawn, Kimberly, Alicen Brown, Kimberly Hayes (via Zoom)

Absent: Nana Gharthey, Elizabeth Smiley

Non-Voting Members Present: Maxicelia Robinson, Deputy Clerk of Council

Meeting opened at 4:35 pm with Edward Herring presiding. A quorum was present

I. Update from Chairman

Cherry Stewart to join as new Commissioner

State Conference in Richmond: submitted a report; was a worthwhile meeting in Richmond

Casey Eriksen made a motion to reimburse Edward Herring for conference expenses

Seconded: Sylvia New Strawn **Motion passed**

Fred Blanton asked if we would host in April. No vote held to host in April

Sylvia New Strawn makes a motion to host in October.

Seconded: Stella Mattioli **Motion passed**

Action item: Edward Herring will follow up to inquire about October possibility of hosting

Meeting calendar discussion and review of upcoming meeting dates, discussion of avoidable/unavoidable conflicts

Stella Mattioli makes a motion to approve 5 meeting dates (2/12, 3/12, 4/11, 5/7, 6/4) for first half of 2024

Seconded: Murray Susen **Motion passed**

Clare Denton-Spalding makes a motion that if CSCC changes a meeting date within 30 days of meeting, it would not count against a Commissioner for missing meeting

Seconded: Alicen Brown **Motion passed**

II. Communications Update (Clare Denton-Spalding)

What might be in website for the perspectives of stakeholders? Responses: volunteer opportunities, information for those interested in grants, charitable grants, information for those interested in travel support

Calls for a more lively website

Discussion of Squarespace as an alternative platform

III. City Rep Updates:

- a. HueHuetenango (Edward Herring)
Edward Herring received a warm letter from mayor thanking CSCC for hosting recent visit.

- b. Besançon (Edward Herring reported on Ms. Smiley's behalf)
Specific event days/times not cast in stone yet for April visit.

Monticello will be included in events.

Sender- masterclass in music at Grisham Hall at STAB

- c. Poggio (Stella Mattioli)
Contacted project grant recipient, he was invited to present, can do so in March
- d. Winneba (Edward Herring on behalf of Nana Gharthey)
Mr. Herring received a note from Nana Gharthey. Plans are underway to explore an event for July 2024 (Festival in Washington Park)

V. Committee Updates:

- a. Grants (Kimberly Hayes): In communication with HueHue contact, working on retooling of grants process. In touch with Ben Bernard but have not heard from him regarding rejected reimbursement Action item: K. Hayes will follow up with Bernard again.
- b. Education (Alicen Brown): Student exchange Valentine's Day week. Buses confirmed with Kim Powell. Edward will give printed tickets, Alicen will give official schedule; Young Authors and Artists Showcase— a competition to align with curriculum, promoting interest
- c. Programs/events (Sylvia New Strawn):
TomTom updates, artists need a dress rehearsal for artistic "treasure map" event April 20. Interactive project is tied to grant. Edward and Elizabeth discussed sender performance, no expenses associated with it aside from h'or d'oeuvres.

Motion by Sylvia New Strawn to approve \$840 in expenses for Besancon student reception.

Seconded: Casey Eriksen, **Motion passed**

- d. Budget & Finance (Casey Eriksen): Eriksen shared specific dollar amounts/recent expenses in update. Edward Herring recommended that CSCC create a Foundation with officers that can collect monies and fundraise. Max Robinson reminds that such a foundation would need to be approved by Council/write up bylaws before going into effect;

Clare Denton-Spalding makes a motion to approve \$9.25 allocation for cover printing/mounting

Seconded: Stella M, **Motion passed**

Ms. Robinson reminded us that:

Name tags were purchased.

Annual report- want to have it submitted by Jun 1, 2024

Huehue MOU needs to be completed (was in the condition of initial approval)

Plevin, Bulgaria placed in emeritus status, but signs are still around.

Need to designate Clare D-S as CSCC.gov email

Motion made by Alicen Brown for Clare to be designated as Communications Director

Seconded: Murray Susen, **Motion passed**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm