

Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission

Meeting Minutes

Meeting December 15, 2020

Zoom

Call to Order 4:34 p.m.

Present: Kate Kogge, Daman Irby, Amanda Folsom, Stella Mattioli, Michael Grinnell, Adrienne Ward, Elizabeth Smiley, Dave Norris, Terri DiCintio (Past Commissioner), Maxicelia Robinson (Staff Liaison), Brian Wheeler (Communications Director)

I. Approve Minutes (November 17, 2020) Motion: Grinnell; Second: Kogge **Approved**

II. GOAL-SETTING

a. [Return to Goals](#): Committees Overview goals set for 2021 **All the goals are reviewed**

- a. Grants **The grant committee decided to extend the deadline for the travel scholarship to April. The committee set the individual grant amount**
- b. Communications/Outreach **The committee worked on updating links on the website, and some links and content still need to be updated. The grant application pages are updated. One of the goals will be identifying a primary and a secondary person to take care of the websites and the social media accounts.**
- c. Education **The goals are reviewed and they are not changed**
- d. Spanish-Speaking Sister City (note: Council approved our proposal to seek out Huehue as a “Friendship City” on Monday 12/7 -woohoo) **The new sister city received positive feedback from the city council. Next steps will involve to start a stable connection between the two cities.**
- e. Winneba **Another delegation will coming this year, so this is still the main goal. The budget committee will have to meet and see if and how it is going to be possible to do the shipment of medical and school supply to Winneba. This year the tenth grader will do a project with Winneba.**
- f. Besancon **The goals are summarized and reviewed. The primary one is to establish connection with the newly appointed contact people for the sister city. Goals until number 4 will be accomplished by the end of the year. In 2021 we will try to start again the students’ exchange. There should be also a musician exchange with different events connected. A chef exchange was going to be organized; at the moment we need to understand at what point the organization work arrived. At the moment all the in person exchanges are stopped.**
- g. Poggio a Caiano **The goals are summarized and reviewed. Terri DiCintio can help in organizing a view of the Filippo Mazzei movie, and possibly enter it at the Virginia Film Festival**

b. Vote to approve goals - Motion: Grinnell; Second: Norris **The goals are approved**

III. STRATEGIC PLAN

a. Return to 2021-2024 [Strategic Plan](#) from last meeting

- Discuss changes to plan and any concerns moving forward

b. Vote to approve Strategic Plan - Motion: Irby; Second: Smiley **The strategic is approved without further clarifications**

IV. GRANTS PROGRAM 2021 - presentation on December 1 meeting by Grants Committee

- a. Share [Grant Application](#) and [Press Release](#). **Some reviews and modifications are being presented, mostly on the timeline for the 2021 grant application. Some questions are asked about how is it possible to submit a grant application and about the specifics to publish the news on social media.**

V. STEPS MOVING FORWARD WITH HUEHUE

- a. Letter from City Manager to Mayor of Huehue on information about Cville along with a letter asking for “Friendship City” establishment for the next 3 years. We should act on this soon.
- b. “Friendship City” Committee for Huehue - will this be the same group as the Spanish-speaking City Committee (Joan, Dave, & Kate)? The objectives will be a little different now. **It is explained that the city manager will have to reach out to their mayor with informations about Charlottesville. The best course of action will be to draft a letter to send to the City Manager, that will send it to Huehue.**

VI. QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETING PROPOSAL

At the last retreat in September, it was noted that we might be more likely to reach our goals if we schedule subcommittee meetings. Are we in agreement with this notion, and if so, let’s make a plan for how often and when these should take place. **The discussion is about organizing a meeting for every subcommittee every few months, in order to make easier to discuss and take the different decisions. The rules of the subcommittee meetings are summarized and clarified.**

VI. FINANCE COMMITTEE WORK SESSION TO DEVELOP BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR UPCOMING YEAR (Michael, Daman, Kate, and whoever else would like to stick around for this part). **It is discussed if this should be done by our first meeting of the new year, January 19. The city manager will be invited to discuss the grant award.**

Adjournment 6:00 p.m.

Next meeting: January 19, 2021