

Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission

Minutes

Meeting January 14, 2021

Zoom

Present: Joan Clarke, Amanda Folsom, Michael Grinnell, Daman Irby, Kate Kogge, Stella Mattioli, Dave Norris, Elizabeth Smiley, Adrienne Ward

Absent: Nana Ghartey, Neely Minton

Non-members present: Maxicelia Robinson (Deputy Clerk of Council), Brian Wheeler (Communications Director)

Meeting opened at 4:32 pm. Daman Irby presiding. A quorum was deemed present.

I. Approval of December minutes

Motion to approve: Kate Kogge **Seconded:** Joan Clarke

Motion to approve minutes as written passed with no abstentions.

II. Presentation by Stacey Evans, 2019 CSCC grant recipient

Ms. Evans reported on her one-week residency in Besançon and the collaborative arts projects that she facilitated as a part of her grant. Her resulting exhibition, “This Familiar Space/Cet Espace Familier,” was opened in virtual format in Charlottesville in Spring 2020. Members were able to view the virtual exhibition and ask Ms. Evans questions about the project.

III. Grants Committee Update - Amanda Folsom

Deadline for 2021 grant submissions is January 15. Currently we are anticipating 2-3 grants submissions. Based on past years, a pool of 8-9 applicants would be optimal. Members discussed extending the current deadline to encourage additional submissions.

Motion to allow the Grants Committee to extend the submission deadline by one week if fewer than 8 applications have been submitted by 1/15/21: Amanda Folsom

Seconded: Dave Norris ***Motion passed with unanimous approval.***

IV. Update on open CSCC positions – Daman Irby and Maxicelia Robinson

The Business Rep and Youth Rep positions remain unfilled. There are currently two applicants, but City Council has extended the application deadline to March 5, 2021 in order to encourage a larger applicant pool. Ms. Robinson clarified the selection process: City Council decides who to appoint to an open Commission position, however, the CSCC Co-Chairs may share applications with the Commission if desired, and the Commission may make recommendations to Council regarding appointing any particular applicant.

V. Review of Upcoming Meetings – Daman Irby

- Refer to Agenda for today's meeting for dates and times

VI. Update on new Friendship City (Huehuetenanga, Guatemala)

Next step is for CSCC to finalize a letter to be sent from our City Manager to representatives in Guatemala. Michael Grinnell suggested and it was agreed that we will invite incoming City Manager (Chip Boyles) to our next meeting to discuss the timetable for this step. Additional discussion related to Huehue was tabled until after the subcommittee meetings scheduled for later this month.

VII. Other Business:

Michael Grinnell shared his proposed budgeting format for future use and solicited feedback and questions from members.

Dave Norris reported that Nana Ghartey, Winneba Rep, returns from Winneba this month and will join upcoming CSCC meetings.

Adrienne Ward volunteered to take the minutes at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Next CSCC meeting is on Tuesday February 16 @ 4:30 pm via Zoom.