

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
ACACIA ROOM
March 31, 2009**

A **Regular Meeting** of the **Sister Cities Board** of the City of Peoria, Arizona, was convened at 8401 W. Monroe Street at 5:04 p.m.

Members Present: Patty Fusco, John Buonagurio, James Flonacher, Penny Hughes, Scott Clark

Members Absent: Mary Matheson, Bonnie Apperson

Other Municipal Officials Present: Grady Miller, Director of Communications & Public Affairs, Suzanne Stewart, Executive Assistant, Andre' Licardi, Arts Officer, Terri Smith, Council Assistant

Note: The order in which the items appear in the minutes is not necessarily the order in which they were discussed at the meeting.

Consent Agenda

Board Member Penny Hughes requested that consent agenda item 1C be corrected to indicate Penny Hughes was present at the November 6, 2009.

A motion was made by Board Member Flonacher to approve the consent agenda with the corrected disposition of absence; the motion was seconded by Board Member Buonagurio. The minutes of November 6, 2009 were approved as part of the consent agenda.

Disposition of Absence

1C Discussion and possible action to approve the absence of Patty Fusco and Penny Hughes

Item 1C was approved as part of the consent agenda with the correction noted that the only absence for November 6, 2009, was Patty Fusco.

Minutes:

2C Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of November 6, 2009

Item 2C was approved as part of the consent agenda.

New Business:

03/31/09

3R Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Board Member Buonagurio made a motion to elect himself as chair, the motion was seconded by Board Member Clark; the motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Hughes indicated an interest in serving as vice chair. Board Member Buonagurio made a motion to elect Board Member Hughes as vice chair, the motion was seconded by Board Member Flonacher; the motion carried unanimously.

4R 2009 Young Ambassadors

Terri Smith discussed the 2009 Young Ambassador Program. Ms. Smith thanked board members Buonagurio and Clark for assisting in the selection process. Ms. Smith said there were two boys from Kellis High School, one girl from Greenway High School and one girl from Ironwood High School selected. The applicants had been highly recommended by principals or previous ambassador families.

Ms. Smith recommended the board attend the tour of city hall that is taking place on July 6, 2009 while the young ambassadors are visiting from our sister city. It is a great way to meet the ambassadors and their families.

Ms. Smith informed the board that Jim Murdock, who is in charge of the ambassador program in the Borough of Ards, Northern Ireland, has received all the ambassador applications and indicated that the selection process should be completed in approximately one month.

Ms. Smith discussed partnering with Lis Doon Varna in Peoria who would consider sponsoring the program. She suggested having the welcome or farewell events there. Ms. Smith welcomed suggestions from the board regarding events and activities for the ambassadors. The board indicated they would be happy to assist her with ideas.

5R Potential New Sister City

Mr. Miller informed the board that the city will begin exploring the possibility of an additional sister city from the Pacific Rim, possibly Japan, China or Korea.

He indicated the city has not formally started the process; however, the city is interested in a sister city that has a strong interest in pursuing its economic development interests with the City of Peoria.

Mr. Licardi suggested speaking with local Asian businesses for ideas of possible cities.

6R Peace Process in Northern Ireland

Mr. Miller discussed the recent incidents in Northern Ireland involving the slaying of two soldiers and a police officer. He indicated that there have been reports in the media of IRA dissident groups committing crimes. He assured the board that these incidents have been on the decline since the 1998 peace accords. Both of the political parties sharing power have denounced the killings and have encouraged witnesses to come forward. Mr. Miller researched crime statistics and Northern Ireland's rate for violent crimes is lower than England or Wales. If any parents have questions or concerns they should contact Mr. Miller or Ms. Smith.

Reports from Staff:

1. Boards and Commissions Training, April 1, 2009

Mr. Miller reminded the board that there is mandatory Boards and Commissions Training, April 1, 2009 for any new board members or board members that have not previously attended.

2. Sister City International Conference – Belfast, Northern Ireland – July 29 – August 2, 2009

Mr. Miller indicated that the 2009 Sister City International Conference will be held In Belfast, Northern Ireland this year.

3. Arizona Sister City Conference – Mesa, Arizona – September 11 – 12, 2009

The Arizona Sister City Conference is being held in Mesa, Arizona this year. Mr. Miller indicated that the city will pay for registration fees for board members.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No public attended this meeting.

Reports from Staff:

Being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was duly adjourned at approximately 6:04 p.m.

Patty Fusco, Chair

Suzanne Stewart, Executive Assistant
Communications and Public Affairs