

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
ACACIA ROOM
November 6, 2008**

A **Regular Meeting** of the **Sister Cities Board** of the City of Peoria, Arizona, was convened at 8401 W. Monroe Street at 5:03 p.m.

Members Present: Bonnie Apperson, John Buonagurio, James Flonacher, Mary Matheson, Penny Hughes, Scott Clark

Members Absent: Patty Fusco

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

Presentation:

Presentation by 2008 Young Ambassador

Daniel Buonagurio, a 2008 Sister City Young Ambassador, made a presentation to the Sister Cities Board regarding his experience this past summer in the program. Several board members asked questions regarding travel and hosting other ambassadors. Daniel said some of the highlights of his experience included traveling to Dublin and Belfast, Ireland, being on a radio show in Ireland and meeting the President of Northern Ireland in his home. He had tea with the President and had a tour of his home and garden.

Disposition of Absence(s):

1C Approve the absences of Bob Ware, Patty Fusco and Penny Hughes from the ratification meeting held on May 28, 2008

A motion was made by Board Member Buonagurio to approve the absences of Bob Ware, Patty Fusco and Penny Hughes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Matheson. The absences from the ratification meeting of May 28, 2008 were approved unanimously

Minutes:

2C Discussion and possible action to approve the minutes of the ratification meeting held on May 28, 2008

A motion was made by Board Member Buonagurio to approve the minutes as written; the motion was seconded by Board Member Apperson. The minutes of the ratification meeting of May 28, 2008 were approved unanimously

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

New Business:

11/06/08 minutes

3R **2008 Community Trip to Northern Ireland**

Mr. Licardi presented a slide show of photographs from the 2008 community trip to Northern Ireland. Mr. Licardi organized the trip for 2008 and is organizing another one in the future. This trip is not affiliated with the City of Peoria and anyone can sign up for these trips.

4R **2009 Young Ambassador Program**

Mr. Miller distributed the 2008-2009 Young Ambassador Program schedule. He stated that we have twelve applicants at this time. The deadline to receive applications is December 23, 2009. Mr. Miller asked for volunteers to assist with the interview process. Boardmember Buonagurio and Boardmember Clark volunteered.

Mr. Miller informed the board that the budget for the Young Ambassador Program has been reduced to \$15,000 yearly.

5R **Artist Exchange Program**

Mr. Licardi reported that he was working with Amy McElvey in Northern Ireland regarding an artist exchange program. He said they are hoping to pair up artists working in the same media. This program would be modeled after the Young Ambassador Program and each artist would host the other artist at their homes. He is hoping the program will be up and running in the next three years.

Mr. Licardi mentioned that he met with the owner of Lis Doon Varna in Peoria and the restaurant has set aside some space to display art from Ireland.

6R **2009 Annual Sister Cities Annual Conference**

Mr. Miller informed the board that the 2009 Sister Cities Annual Conference will be hosted in Belfast, Ireland. This is an international conference. Mr. Miller stated that we may have some funds in the budget that would allow some boardmembers to attend the conference which will take place in June 2009.

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 6:07 p.m.

Patty Fusco, Chair

Suzanne Stewart, Executive Assistant
Communications and Public Affairs