



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
cctexas.com

Meeting Minutes

Sister City Committee

Thursday, November 14, 2024

12:00 PM

Staff Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

A. Call To Order

Chair Luis Cabrera called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Staff Liaison Stephanie Box called roll.

Present: 5 - Adria Vasquez, Vice Chair Valerie Harbolovic, Susane "Westi" Horn, Charles Harris, and Ana Rivera-Soto

Absent: 1 - Heather Moretzsohn

C. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. 24-1859 Minutes of the October 3, 2024 meeting

Member Valerie Harbolovic motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by member Charles Harris. The motion passed unanimously. Ana motioned to excuse Valerie's absence at the last meeting, seconded by Charles. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Committee Reports

2. 24-1642 Agen Subcommittee Update - Susane Westi Horne, Chair

No official report given by Chair Susane Westi Horne. Committee discussed waiting on the letter from the Mayor once elections conclude. Member Valerie Harbolovic will meet with Mrs. Klein regarding Agen delegation. Committee agreed that limiting the scope is key when planning delegation expenses. Committee discussed graduate students to study abroad and recommends exploring Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's French or study abroad program.

3. 24-1644 Student Exchange Subcommittee Update - Luis Cabrera, Chair

Chair Luis Cabrera discussed updates to the application by December and will need an

email address to receive applications. Committee will meet in early December. Committee also discussed contacting school Assistant Principals and Stephanie contacting the city's Communications Department to collaborate in spreading more information about the exchange program. Stephanie will also verify if non-members can participate on subcommittees to the exchange program.

4. 24-1860 Vera Cruz Subcommittee Update - Valerie Harbolovic, Chair

Chair Valerie Harbolovic discussed having a useful template created for the Vera Cruz delegation, Jorge's request to have a virtual forum with local business professionals, and her suggestion of a small delegation going to Vera Cruz.

5. 24-1861 Yokosuka Subcommittee Update - Susane Westi Horne, Chair

Chair Susane Westi Horne reported she will contact Kumi regarding a meeting during the U.S./Japan summit in mid September.

6. 24-1862 Budget & Fundraising Subcommittee Update - Mourad Hasbaoui, Chair

Vice Chair Charles Harris reported around \$8000 in the budget from fundraising. He has spoke with HEB and Whataburger - both seem willing to donate and/or sponsor activities. He is awaiting a response from Citgo and Valero. Liaison Stephanie Box reported an analyst from budget is in the process of keying-in committee budget to the City Secretary's office.

7. 24-1863 Transition Subcommittee Update - Mourad Hasbaoui, Chair

Member Valerie Harbolovic will inquire with Member Mourad Hasbaoui about chairing the committee. Committee discussed three options to consider: 1. Remaining with the city under the City Secretary's office. 2. Contracting with another entity like the United Chamber of Commerce. 3. Sister City becoming its own entity. Members Luis Cabrera and Heather Moretzsohn will research option 1. Member Hasbaoui will research option 2. Member Harbolovic will research option 3. Member Harbolovic provided a list of considerations: working as a nonprofit for fundraising and meeting flexibility, adding more members, and having the Mayor and Council as non-voting members, establishing by-laws. Committee discussed timeline for decisions to be made by March/April before budget process begins, and consideration for a special meeting to take place for strategic planning. Committee will email Member Harbolovic by the next meeting a top ten list of important things Sister City members need to consider.

8. 24-1864 Toledo Subcommittee Update

Member Luis Cabrera discussed the new honorary council member in Toledo, Spain. Member Cabrera will explore further.

F. **Staff Reports**

9. 24-1878 Updates from Staff Liaison

Liaison Stephanie Box explained the format of the agenda and separating reports items from action items. She also discussed a January/February timeline for a new appointment to replace Member Joe Benavides.

G. Unfinished Business (None)**H. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action****10. 24-1865 Agen delegation**

Committee discussed Agen delegation. No actions were taken.

11. 24-1866 Budget/fundraising update

Committee discussed budget and fundraising. No actions were taken.

12. 24-1867 Annual report

Member Luis Cabrera will provide the annual report to the Committee in December for approval. No actions were taken.

I. Future Agenda Items (None)**J. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.