



City of Corpus Christi

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Meeting Minutes - Draft

Sister City Committee

Thursday, October 3, 2024

12:00 PM

Staff Conference Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

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A. Call to Order

Vice Chair Luis Cabrera called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Staff Liaison Stephanie Box called roll.

Present: 7 - Adria Vasquez, Vice Chair Luis F. Cabrera, Susane "Westi" Horn, Mourad Hasbaoui, Charles Harris, Heather Moretzsohn, and Ana Rivera-Soto

Absent: 2 - Valerie Harbolovic, and Joe Benavides

C. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [24-1641](#) Minutes of the September 12, 2024 Meeting

Attachments: [Minutes - 2024-09-12 SisterCityComm DRAFT](#)

Member Ana Rivera-Soto motioned to approved the minutes as presented, seconded by member Charles Harris. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Chairs

Vice Chair Cabrera opened nominations for Chair. Luis Cabrera was nominated. There were no other nominations. Cabrera was unanimously elected as Chair.

Chair Cabrera opened nominations for Vice Chair. Valerie Harbolovic was nominated. There were no other nominations. Harbolovic was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

Chair Cabrera opened discussion for appointment of chairs and assistant chairs for subcommittees. The results are:

Agen: Susane Westi Horne (chair) and Heather Moretzsohn (assistant chair)

Vera Cruz: Valerie Harbolovic (chair) and Adria Vasquez (assistant chair), Heather Moretzsohn (member)

Student Exchange: Luis Cabrera (chair) and Ana Rivera-Soto (assistant chair), Westi Horne (member)

Yokosuka: Westi Horne (chair) and Charles Harris (assistant chair)

Budget & Fundraising: Mourad Hasbaoui (chair) and Charles Harris (assistant chair)

Transition: Mourad Hasbaoui (chair) and Charles Harris (assistant chair), Heather Moretzsohn and Valerie Harbolovic (members)

F. Staff Reports

2. [24-1648](#) New Committee Liaison - Assistant City Secretary Stephanie Box

New staff liaison Stephanie Box introduced herself and constituent relations coordinator Denise Sudell, who will also be assisting with the committee. The committee did receive a budget allocation of \$20,000 for FY 2025, which will be in the City Secretary's Office budget. The committee discussed the potential transition to the United Chamber of Commerce and how it might work. Member Heather Moretzsohn and Box will meet to go through a box of items from past Sister City business and visits to determine what should be done with the items. Committee expressed a desire to preserve the history of the Sister City Committee in some manner.

G. Committee Reports

3. [24-1642](#) Agen Subcommittee Update - Susane Westi Horne, Chair

Committee members expressed a desire to focus the Agen delegation visit more on economics and business than arts and cultural elements. It was suggested to review the Vera Cruz schedule that was created and apply a similar template for Agen. Our Mayor sends an invitation letter out to Agen's Mayor. With city elections next month, the committee discussed the option of sending out a 'save the date' type of letter to Agen and following up with an official invitation after elections conclude.

4. [24-1644](#) Student Exchange Subcommittee Update - Luis Cabrera, Chair

The subcommittee needs to schedule a meeting and review applications in late October.

H. Unfinished Business (None)

I. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

5. **24-1650** Discussion with possible action regarding a work plan, including fundraising, for the 2025 term year.

Staff liaison Box presented a draft work plan for the upcoming year. The committee discussed the work plan, the potential visits, and student exchange and agreed the work plan is a good working document to utilize. Fundraising activities for the visits were also discussed, with a desire for them to have more active participation.

Regarding the plans for the Agen delegation visit, the committee discussed it having a business, tourism and/or renewable energy focus. Moretzsohn will provide a list of companies that do grants to potentially offset costs of the student activities.

J. Future Agenda Items

The committee asked for the following items to be on the November agenda: Agen delegation schedule and budget/fundraising update.

K. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57.