



# City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
cctexas.com

## Meeting Minutes Sister City Committee

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Monday, December 6, 2021

12:00 PM

City Hall, 3rd Floor Engineering Smartboard Room

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### Regular Meeting

The City of Corpus Christi promotes participation regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or political belief. Reasonable accommodation is provided upon request and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact (361) 826-3300 at least 48 hours in advance. Upon request, this information can be available in larger print and/or in electronic format.

#### A. Call To Order

Chairperson Melody Cooper called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

#### B. Roll Call

Liaison Jacob Warren performed Roll Call.

**Present:** 8 - Susane "Westi" Horne, Almira Flores, Deacon Marck C. Arnold, Melody H. Cooper, Luis F. Cabrera, Valerie Harbolovic, Mirza Pearson, and Adria Vasquez

#### C. Public Comment

No public comment was provided for this meeting.

#### D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [21-1669](#) Approval of minutes for the 11/08/21 Sister City Committee Regular Meeting

Member Valerie Harbolovic motioned for approval of the minutes from the 11/08/21 Sister City Committee Regular Meeting. Motion was seconded by Member Adria Vasquez. Motion was approved unanimously.

#### E. Discussion / Action Items

2. [21-1676](#) Mexico Sister City Outreach - Mirza Pearson / Valerie Harbolovic

- Had productive zoom meeting with Mexico Sister Cities. Meetings led by Cleo and

were focused more on Playa del Carmen. Food not discussed. Mirza Pearson has family in Monterrey and will work with them to establish a relationship with the Monterrey Sister City Program. Veracruz not discussed. Agreed to meet again and Mayor Guajardo is in full support.

- First Sister City that wanted to re-establish a relationship was Playa del Carmen. They are requesting a letter from our Mayor to Mayor of Playa del Carmen regarding re-establishing a relationship. Mentioned a meeting in March 2022 with International Sister Cities having agreed to be in attendance. Melody spoke with them and they were completely unaware of a meeting in March 2022. Discussed with Arlene Medrano from the Mayor's Office and requested that Arlene discuss with Mayor Guajardo. Further discussions with Cleo are required to proceed.

- Meeting may have been recorded and stored at the San Antonio Consulate.

3. [21-1680](#) Student Exchange Program - Almira Flores / Luis Cabrera / Susane Horn / Valerie Harbolovic

- Safety issues currently exist due to COVID-19. Unsure if Student Exchange Program will be utilized in 2022.

- Applications were previously emailed to Theresa or delivered to the CVB at the Jalufka House. Currently hoping to have a City email address created for the committee to help with credibility. Unsure if this is a possibility or not. Need to discuss topic with IT Department. More likely that a staff member will have their email assigned to receive committee emails.

- Applications are currently complete. Waiting for further developments before taking action. Selections need to happen in March and applications need to be sent out and collected soon. Hoping to have new liaison to the committee in January.

- If student exchange can't happen due to COVID-19, the committee is hoping to have a summit instead where students can attend a Zoom meeting and share experiences.

- Suggested a member of the committee serve as a marketing manager for the committee.

4. [21-1684](#) Cultural Exchange Program - Melody Cooper / Valerie Harbolovic / Mirza Pearson

- Trip to France undergoing planning phase. Lodging possibilities and dates were discussed. Moving forward with plans to have two pianists from Del Mar College fly to France for the cultural exchange. Must have Mayor and a Council member attend the cultural exchange in France as well.

5. [21-1685](#) 60th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship between Corpus Christi, Texas and Yokosuka, Japan - Mirza Pearson

Currently discussing logistics of hosting the Yokosuka delegation in Corpus Christi. No action will take place until 2022. Tentative date of July 2022 for the event.

6. [21-1686](#) Funding Sources - Mirza Pearson / Luis Cabrera

The Funding Sources discussion tied in with the Budget Allocation discussion. All notes can be found under the Budget Allocation item.

7. [21-1687](#) Budget Allocation - Melody Cooper / Luis Cabrera / Mirza Pearson / Valerie Harbolovic

Committee has determined there is enough funding for the student and cultural exchanges, however, there does not appear to be enough for the 60th Anniversary Event with Yokosuka, Japan. Planning to ask for additional funding through various resources and sponsorships.

F. **Identify Items to be placed on January 10, 2022 agenda**

Committee members requested discussion on possible marketing strategies for the January 10, 2022 Regular Meeting.

G. **Adjournment**

Vice-Chairperson Luis Cabrera motioned for adjournment. Member Adria Vasquez seconded motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM.

**This meeting may be held via videoconference call pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.127. If this meeting is held via videoconference call or other remote method of meeting, then a member of this governmental body presiding over this meeting will be physically present at the location of this meeting unless this meeting is held pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.125 due to an emergency or other public necessity pursuant to Texas Government Code § 551.045.**