



# CITY OF DE PERE

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Sister Cities Committee  
De Pere, WI 54115

Date: March 30, 2006

## Committee Meeting

Meeting called to order at 16:00 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Riverview room at city hall.

Attending: Mayor Mike Walsh, Larry Delo, Bill Patzke, Paul Kegel, Lynn Lee, Jim Stupka, Tracy Hopkins, Jerilyn Schad, Fr Seamus Nielson, Bon Baeten, Candy Herdersheid. Absent: Ben Villarruel.

Distribution of materials - meeting agenda, "how to find a sister city" brochure, request form with data from previous committee.

Introductions and discussion by chair on reorganization of committee and reason that the number of council members was limited. Thanks to former members Fleck and Dunlop for their efforts.

Request for position of Secretary - accepted by Jim Stupka.

Overviews of committee and SCI publications, using email wherever possible. Some members do not have email so items will have to be transmitted by US Postal services. Kathy stated that barring objection the committee would use consensus decision processes during our review and discussions.

Committee was brought up to date on activities completed thus far. A discussion initiated on past activities and why the group had a quandary where it did. It is felt that for the project to work and be successful community support will be needed. Larry has registered us and we need to complete the forms on the City of De Pere. The previous group had selected three countries of interest and discussion surrounded the need for data descriptions then we need to see who's interested and begin the 'courtship'.

There was a detailed review of the form and the data already supplied. There are limits on the number of words that can be submitted in specific fields. It was decided to correct the community description and remove the 'and 15 minutes south of green bay' from the geographical description. Discussion on why specific economic activities were checked, Larry informed the group that during his discussions he found it was better to check multiples so a key is not missed in matching you with a close sister. Bill will revise and resubmit our economic details. Lynn will provide special historical community related information. Discussion surrounding some statements and keys to our community items such as "world class" fishing, outdoor sports (hunting), and items like the De Pere locks.

It was decided to do some rewriting on the information presented, focusing more on the keys for what we desired. Discussion on what we were looking for and brainstorming session ensued.

Community of similar size (population), growing businesses, celebrates their heritage, strong historical ties, focused on heightened (and higher) education, developing a diverse culture, progressive (?), central downtown district, bridge linking central downtown areas, recreational opportunities with ecological concerns, environmentally concerned (fox river), meeting the challenges for a growing community, celebrates diversity within and ever growing community. It was decided to review, rewrite and reevaluate this entire section.

Discussion on goals to be set looking at similarities with other communities. Larry informed the group that a video was in the works that would show our city in a short web based presentation. This should be ideal for showing our city. Goals were assigned to members for presentation: Arts - Fr. Seamus, Economics - Bill, Education - Paul and Ron (plus college ask international studies), Environment - ask the friends of the fox (or assign to Ben), Health and Safety - Jim, Municipal Cooperation - Larry, Technology and communications - Pete Smith, Youth - ask community center and recreational programs educators.

Kathy reviewed the sister cities mission and goals statements. Also reviewed were the benefits. Discussion ensued on time line and a need to review and research the potential partners. Larry suggested using the council chambers so the computer interface would be available. Kathy stated, we need to keep moving forward and least submit a request.

Discussions ensued on what kind and when to publicize this potential joining. Mike asked where and whom we could solicit for funds to sponsor this proposal. Jerilyn suggested the need to be specific where the funds would be utilized and what exposure the contributor would expect from the advertising associated with this effort. Paul asked if we could get someone from the Appleton group to make a presentation or perhaps from the sisters cities group. Discussion on the costs associated with a cultural exchange, cost for membership in SCI is covered by the city (about \$350 per year). Additional costs need to be found by fundraising or through a corporate sponsor. Wait on publicity until we have our 'ducks in a row' then work on a campaign. It was also suggested several personal contacts need to be made with regard to our discussions in lieu of solicitation letters for contributions.

Review of meeting - lots of information, went well.

Next meeting Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 4pm in the council chambers if possible. Adjourned 5:35 pm., will try to limit meetings to one hour.

Respectfully submitted,

*James O. Stupka III*

Assistant Fire Chief