



CITY OF DE PERE

Sister Cities Committee
De Pere, WI 54115

Date: August 10, 2006

Committee Meeting

Kathy passed out packets of information with the agenda, minutes of the last meeting, our request form, and our goals. Your password to get into sister cities is DePere-WI-US and then your phone number. Larry passed out a sheet with the access information from his office. Other members also passed out information on the research that had been performed during the past two weeks. Christine discussed her trip and passed along the information that Green Bay had asked her to be on their committee for becoming a 'green' city. Questions on potential conflicts of interest - none noted.

Meeting called to order at 16:17 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Riverview room at city hall. Correction to previous minutes Riccardo is the proper name spelling.

Attending: Christine Fossen-Rades, Paul Kegel, Jim Stupka, Jerilyn Schad, Lynn Lee, Tracy Hopkins, Larry Delo, Bill Patzke. Absent: Fr Seamus Nielson, Ben Villarruel, Candy Heidersheid, Ron Baeten, Mayor Walsh.

Kathy sent the Thank You card to Dr. Elmer. Kathy also emailed a request for information on the group that has a Japanese connection because they are not listed. Kathy brought up information under our request and initiated a discussion on exactly what activities we envision with our sister city organization. There were questions on what our organizational relationship would be based on? Question about are you supported by your local organization, where the answer on the sheet is no. Are we going to start throwing out cities by consensus? Riccardo was asked to come and speak to the group to which, he stated, he had nothing further to say. The two cities in Italy are Pontassieve and Borgo Verde. It was suggested that Kathy talk to the Mayor and set up for the two mayors to discuss issues via an interpreter. Kathy will follow-up.

Megtec connection, Kathy listed the cities where there was an interest by the company for either new operations or expansion of operations. The suggestions by Megtec were Milevsko, Czech Republic; Gothenburg, Sweden; and Ingre, France. They have just opened up operations in India and Shanghai. The company would probably assign an intern to participate with the sister cities group. We could expect assistance in the form of translation and interpreters immediately additional resources will need to go through channels. The parent company is Sequa. Megtec had arranged for a student from Gutenberg to stay in De Pere and attend school. They have a newsletter mailed worldwide and they are a green company meeting one of our criteria for interaction we are seeking. They gave Kathy the three write-ups on the communities that the company is suggesting because they seem best aligned with the criteria we have. Kathy will copy it for us to discuss at the next meeting. Larry stated that Megtec is the largest employer in De Pere and was number thirty in Brown County at last glance. Discussions ensued with regard to other Megtec cities; these cities should definitely be kept as potential sisters.

Christine was unable to meet with the local officials while in Belize due to water conditions at the

time of the visit. The location where they stay is on an island and a boat must be taken to the mainland.

Bill relayed that he had researched the entire sister cities recommended areas except the Polish site because it was not written in English and he had some difficulty ascertaining exactly what it said without translation. Bill forwarded the information and gave overviews of these sites.

Bill also relayed information on the African sites he limited it to cities about our size for population range. Most sites seemed to be looking for economic assistance and many are primarily agricultural in nature or looking for tourism as a focus. Nothing spectacular was found from Africa.

Discussion ensued over going backwards with making contacts with cities that are not official sister cities members. Larry stated that's what we pay dues for and we should have them pursue a city that we find a good match with. All agreed that the Megtec cities should be considered as a priority for us to connect with.

Lynn found nothing overly exciting in Europe.

Tracey felt most of the cities she had researched in Eurasia were primarily agricultural or too big for us.

Paul didn't like the fact that it seemed very little information was available on his cities in China many had not even completed the seeking questionnaire completely especially for agriculture and tourism. He did find one of interest in India that is developing a knowledge-based community. And he still liked Puyong but the city is a key petro-chemical site that wants to be environmentally attractive, some questions to this regard.

Jerilyn did not recommend any sites from the Americas because all seemed to be seeking humanitarian aid.

Discussions on having students from different areas come and speak to us. When looking at our criteria what is our rationale as far as what we are looking for? Should we fine-tune the criteria? We will have a speaker from Megtec tell us of what they might expect and hopefully we can work out the details for our criteria or revise our criteria to better align with their expectations. Kathy will contact them to get them to attend a meeting and contact sister cities to see if there is an interest by the suggested cities in being a sister. Kathy suggested that we consider what we really want in a relationship.

Paul suggested caution on the interactions with Megtec that other businesses may be somewhat unhappy because of a formal relationship. Why have we chosen this city and what are the expectations on the part of the committee. Discussions on specific cities and the potential for exchanges.

Kathy has looked at grants and found an abundance of information. She chose not to print all fifty-six pages of data. Bill's intern will assist with the research into possible grants for the exchanges.

Next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, August 24 at 4:00. Adjourned 5:35 pm.

Meeting review: All agreed that the Megtec company interactions will make the exchanges smoother and meet our criteria for getting this done, everyone is excited about the potential for this linking.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III

Assistant Fire Chief