



CITY OF DE PERE

Sister Cities Committee
De Pere, WI 54115

Date: June 15, 2006

Committee Meeting

Meeting called to order at 16:05 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Riverview room at city hall.

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

Distribution of materials - meeting agenda, minutes, country justifications, letter from Tim Honey, and individual goals submissions.

Kathy praised Diane with special thanks for handling the minutes of the previous meeting, they were very precise.

Kathy relayed information from several discussions with Amy Kohlbrecher. They are able to determine how many hits the site gets but not how many an individual page, like the city of De Pere's page. She will email Kathy sites that meet our description. She commented the last thing we should look at is the population. Boulder, Colorado matched with a city in China and created a mutual relationship where they built a teahouse in Boulder. Most important thing is to have goals for a mutual relationship, Kathy stated 'well just by coincidence' that we have them. She further stated there are lots of communities interested in eco projects that would be happy to partner with us. It should be easy to find a city with similar goals even to our own. Getting the youth involved may be an important first step on this path.

Larry stated that there was an attempt to connect with the Mayor in regard to a location in Italy. Ricardo from UWGB is a consultant working for a number of companies dealing with international markets and he has talked with a number of cities in Italy that may be interested in partnering .

Kathy briefly discussed the 50-year anniversary and fund raising. She took a look through the web site trying to ascertain what communities met our criteria for sustainable, youth and education oriented, eco friendly, etc. She came back with several different cities from around the globe. All were in different continents. These printouts were passed around to the members for review and comments.

We looked at County Fermough in SE Ireland, comments about it with seeming to be more of a county than a city and Crookstown in Northern Ireland. Carrickfugers and in the Americas Playas del Coco and Quebodu Gonado, some interesting in the Carribean was Savamalar, Jamaica. In Africa, Widikum and Selwyn, New Zealand. All members found interest in Puyong, China they appear to value very similar traits to our own. It appeared the China city has the greatest current

degree of potential. Additional discussions on Cuba, Kathy will contact the association to ascertain whether a market exists and it is legal. There are several African students at SNC from Nigeria and Cameroon. Paul will contact to see if they are interested in educating the committee on their part of the world.

Kathy will put together a packet including Puyang, Italy (from Ricardo), and look to the possibilities for Cuba to see what potential reference there is. Discussions over where the exchanges would occur and inviting the additional foreign students to our meetings, Paul will check availability. Christine will call about her American connections. Kathy will also check into Holland. Discussed the goals Amy liked what we had and suggested defining why we were looking at specific locations. Kathy wants to keep adding to the list with statements of why each area appeals to our community.

Our site is De Pere-wi-us and passwords will be forthcoming.

Reports are scheduled; we have not heard anything back from our survey except from George Brown with regard to Costa Rica. Megtec should be contacted as a potential business participant. Christine has met with some friends active in the environmental issues and has asked some people if they would be interested in participating on a committee to get some of the groundwork completed. Further discussions on getting the committee together and development of goals, etc.

June meeting, canceled. Kathy assigned members to contact those not present for information to be relayed for the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 12 at 3:30** when we will have Dr. Elmer present to discuss the Appleton programs. Please bring your questions on the program.

Review of meeting - Very positive responses, we don't want a 'cookie cutter' of ourselves somewhere else in the world, hoping that our expectations will be resolved more clearly after the next meeting; adjourned 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III

Assistant Fire Chief