



CITY OF DE PERE

Sister Cities Committee
De Pere, WI 54115

Date: October 5, 2006

Committee Meeting

Kathy passed out packets of information with the agenda, minutes of the last meeting, reorganized goals list, and revised sheets to provide an analysis of the six cities we are considering based on priorities. Jim gave out his analysis for Milevsko and gave Jerolyn the print from the MEGTEC powerpoint.

Meeting called to order at 16:10 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Riverview room at city hall.

Attending: Jim Stupka, Lynn Lee, Jerilyn Schad, Bill Patzke, Mayor Walsh (late).

Absent: Fr Seamus Nielson, Larry Delo, Paul Kegel, Ben Villarruel, Christine Fossen-Rades, Tracy Hopkins, Candy Heidersheid, Ron Baeten.

Review of minutes from the last meeting, ok.

A discussion on why membership was waning, it was felt the educators in the group were extremely busy because of the beginning of the season. Discussed changing the meeting dates and times, determination to maintain current. Suggested adding members to the group and placing an ad or article in the paper. In processing the group's thoughts, it was suggested that Sam Dunlop had a lot of interest in the activities of the group but there was a concern over the quorum requirements for the council. It was suggested that members of the service groups might be interested woman's club, rotary, lions, and optimists. Jerilyn will look to the business community, Jim will write an article for his column in the paper, Kathy will talk to Paula for suggestions on participants from the senior programs. Lynn will talk to woman's club and Jim will talk to the optimists.

Performed a quick review of activities and goals, discussed contacts made since last meeting.

Kathy stated that Paul had not been able to find much information on the China location and was not really able to do an analysis based on what he had for information. Kathy was trying to assist his efforts.

Bill presented on Gotenborg stating he felt it was not an ideal fit based on his analysis. There is a college in the city, their economic development is very good. They currently have three sister cities already, all are port cities. They also have a 'twin town' and a number of European connections. Bill sees no real advantage for them but could represent a lot for us. Rich music life 'ace of base', 'dark tranquility', and more. Similar in nature with lots of parks but a huge population difference they have 487,200 people.

Jim presented Milevsko stating his analysis showed this would probably be a very good fit. They

seem to be the large town surrounded by more rural areas. They have a rich history that centers around a Premonstatensian Monastery that dates back to 1100. They have numerous art and cultural centers and an annual Easter carnival where the residents all wear masks. They seem to be growing and developing since WWII primarily based on industry. Unsure of the education in the area but did find a 'blog' on an American student from Prague who travel three hours to Milevsko. They are a pilot site for a sustainable energy project in Europe. The city has 10,000 residents.

Kathy presented on Ingre, which is close to Paris. She was surprised by a lot of the translations to English because they were very poorly done; some of the wording was not what would normally be expected. The city is about 8,000 people more of a rural area than an urban center. They have music festival and lots of culture. The community and area are into wind power and one of the industries sells generating plants. Sales for the company are around the world. Seems to be a very well established and quaint town. Possibly a good fit, materials were difficult to read.

Paul had extreme difficulty finding the information on Shanghai he kept getting redirected to some place in Korea.

Jerilyn presented on Bagno a Ripoli much of the information relates to Florence. Everything seems to be "near" the city. They have strict policies on festivals; they do a census every quarter to track any population trends. They have an extensive history and culture that make them a target as a tourist area. Home to numerous 'parishes'. Agriculture is very big they have a public square and are located between two rivers. Realistically need more information to draw a good conclusion. Arts and culture is a prime factor for this area.

Discussion to review areas presented with regard to the finer points that apply into our matrix. There was an impression that perhaps MEGTEC could at some point make presentations on Milevsko and Ingre as partners for the city.

Meeting review: Bill stated we are getting there, seem to be on track to get ties with another city.

Next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 19, and November 2, 16, 30 at 4:00. Adjourned 5:05 pm.

Assignments for the next meeting - Look at adding new members to the committee. All members should look at Milevsko and Ingre. Paul and Christine will hopefully make their presentations.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III

Assistant Fire Chief