



CITY OF DE PERE

Sister Cities Committee
De Pere, WI 54115

Date: May 4, 2006

Committee Meeting

Meeting called to order at 16:01 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Riverview room at city hall.

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

Distribution of materials - meeting agenda, section revisions, and individual submissions.

Introductions and discussion on minutes. Christine was welcomed and announced she recently won several awards that will make her an outstanding addition to the group. Kathy thanked Larry for continuing to copy everything needed for the meetings, making the organization so much easier. Kathy asked Jim to point out any issues, which have been addressed in the past meeting minutes so we can stay on track.

Kathy asked everyone to look through the handouts and the revisions to the request, they have been completed, and she stated, she is pleased with the profile. Discussion opened on whether revision to our countries list should be based more on input from the business community.

Kathy stated she had pulled the apostrophes from the geographical information. Larry left and returned with an overview sheet that refined the section removing "commercial and industrial uses". Larry will reword the commentary for the details section.

Discussions ensued on the "your community" section suggesting they were mutually exclusive and the two sections need to be brought together, some of the dates conflict. The suggestion was to make them flow together to give a more comprehensive overview of the city's history from beginning to now. Also need to remove the word first form the cultural section and change the population wording to "European immigrants settled here". More discussions ensued about the historical significance of St. Norbert College and whom the 'original' European settlers were who settled here. Further discussion on the punctuation and spelling corrections that needs to be made. 'Uses' in details, already caught will be fixed. Capitalize the word Catholic. Characterize a 'growing community' evolved into a discussion on 'similar population', it was decided to leave this on.

Again a discussion on site selection and what role the city council might play in a decision, Mike stated this is an autonomous group. Kathy stated that we need input from the business community and asked where are we now? Larry stated contact had been made with ADVANCE to determine if there was any initial interest from the business community. Further discussion was that private sector might have a greater impact on the committee direction, Larry will check with Bill to see the

status of the mailings. Invitations have been made to other cities that have sisters already as of our meeting none have returned calls. Larry called the mayor of Appleton's office directly. Could we also call Stevens Point directly? Larry will contact.

Christine handed out info on "Eco-friendly" or "sustainable" communities. She suggested that we could consider this as a project for this community to focus on. The EPA even has grants available to assure different aspects are successful. Larry stated that several of the other council members had shown an interest in certain aspects of this issue. Kathy stated that it is a good direction for the conscience city to go.

Kathy initiated a discussion on goals and activities sections. She feels that the bulleted format with a paragraph together gave a better description on why the committee decided on a specific direction. She suggested each goal be rewritten to include this format.

Skip review of countries at this time. Homework is for all members to read up on sustainable cities. Jerilyn asked if the business community could be part of the committee if they so choose - answer Yes. Larry explained that Bill's letter asked specifically that along with 2) do you have a relationship outside the US and 3) would you like to expand to a location outside the US.

Review of meeting - is there any possibility of adding questions to the survey - answered by Larry: believes they have already gone out. Very positive responses, all are glad the application is basically done.

Next meeting, Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 4pm in the riverside room. Additional meetings are scheduled June 1, and June 15. Adjourned 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III

Assistant Fire Chief