Committee Meeting

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


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

Introductions and discussion on minutes.

Request to move the "request" to last - approved. Larry had one point that he wanted to bring up and that was the official population figure could be revised to reflect the current of 22,310 and he would be able to get an even more current figure soon.

City details have been redone and look great. Bill stated the economic part was redone for the 99th time and he is happy with it until next time he reads it again. Will insert the community info into the space on the form. Fr Seamus' data to bullet points under the goals. Special historical was submitted by Lynn, after discussion it was decided to ask for a rewrite on part to include more of the information that brings us to our present time frame. Suggested that the items noted in the reference book on De Pere showing that the population settling here were bridge builders, lock builders, fishermen, etc. Kathy stated the river, lock, dam, and bridge are still significant to the city and that she would discuss the revision with Lynn.

Discussion on sister cities info submitted by the separate areas for goals, decided that the information should be submitted in a bulleted listing. Modify the characteristics for what we desire in a sister city and make wording changes accordingly. Again suggested we seek outside input from Appleton or another community that is active in the exchanges.

Larry suggested sending out a business emails with two questions 1) does the business have ties overseas, and 2) would the business like to establish a market overseas. A discussion ensued over email vs US Postal and flowed into our seeking input from SNC team that markets De Pere overseas with knowledge of the what businesses might have interest.

Kathy suggested that we should review the activities we envision with regard to our sister city prior to the selection of a site or country. It was further suggested that we continue with the application and use that as the basis for selection.

Fr. Seamus what we could want as it relates to cultural and arts exchanges with regard to other
activities he has seen that would do well in this community - craft exchanges, fine arts, scholarship exchanges at the high school or grade school levels, and even athletics. Suggested that guest chef's or entertainment in some form oriented to the area, stating his colleagues at the college actively seek opportunities for this type of event. He also suggested caution with regard to names 'black and tan' is an evil name to the Irish based on past experiences we need to proceed with caution and maintain cultural sensitivity.

Kathy pointed out the bulleted format and felt this was the optimal method for presentation. All sections should be rewritten and submitted in this format. This is for our own internal use anyway.

Ben will meet with Christine tomorrow and will advise her of the committee recommendations. Discussion ensued over what the environment concept was but it came down to the fact that she is aware and proactive with regard to environmental issues. Larry stated the alliance is sending a group to Europe for ideas from them relating to ideas that are 'Eco friendly' or 'Green' cities. Larry will check with the alliance and Ben will take care of the environment and youth goals.

Kathy discussed the country selection and suggested not limiting our pairing. A discussion ensued over how we had determined a site and it was suggested we see how the information being gathered relates to a sister so as not to preclude areas that could benefit the community in a relationship the most. If we have a specific country in mind SCI will even approach a city that meets our criteria whether they are members or not. Discussion on courtship and potential barriers between English and non-English speaking countries.

A business should be part of the selection process if we can find one interested. Suggested that advance planning will keep it fresh in everyone's mind. Kathy will have the final application and representatives will have their bulleted goals and activities.

Review of meeting - lots of information, went well.

Next meetings trying to schedule every two weeks Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 4pm in the riverside room. Additional meetings are scheduled May 18, June 1, and June 15. Adjourned 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

_James O. Stupka III_

Assistant Fire Chief