Meeting called to order at 16:02 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Riverview room at city hall.


Distribution of materials - meeting agenda, final application, and individual goals submissions.

Introductions and discussion on finalized application, review of individual changes made by Kathy based on last meeting. Requested changes in detail, historical, and uses to businesses other changes to the description; removing the three grows and utilizing alternative adjectives. With minor additional adjustments as stated the application will be posted tonight.

Kathy initiated a discussion on "Eco-friendly" or "sustainable" communities. Christine suggested that "environmentally conscience" should cover the focus.

Larry stated that Bill had forwarded the letter to the business community and had received only a single reply from Humana - No. The mailing was limited and possibly could be enhanced next time. This was opened into a discussion on our selections for countries that may have sisters. Christine suggested that since her students already have ties to Belize could a Central American country be added in lieu of our two choices in the same country. Paul suggested that China is rapidly becoming a world power and may be an interesting choice. Open discussion ensued over the revision of current choices. Resolved to a selection of countries based on OUR needs, support from the community, and business opportunities. Larry returned and suggested China as well. Paul reviewed the choices by other communities across the state with regard to the locations they had sisters with. Discussions on Ireland or Netherlands, China or the 2nd Ireland, choices came out to Ireland, China, and Belize. Assignments were made for members to specify why we would choose a specific country, in a bulleted format for the next meeting - Paul to take China, Mike to take Ireland, and Christine to take Belize.

Discussions on invitations made to other groups. Contact had been made with the Appleton group (Monk), Kathy read an email from a group. There are three separate sister groups in Appleton, the city has never contributed and all independent of one another. They were asked to come and provide information on how they do things. Larry explained why specific groups have interactions with different countries. It was determined that we should ask questions of the representative and ascertain if they would be interested in further assisting us with selection, guidance; perhaps acting in the capacity of mentor. Discussion ensued on the type of relationship wanted; Appleton seems to
have a one-sided relation where they send things to the sister. Preference from our group seemed to be a two-way exchange.

Discussion on Eco-cities, Christine has a packet from the last meeting for research, she questioned who would make decisions on sustainability. Suggested that perhaps an advisory group would look on this topic before or as a part of the progressing sister program. This program could be broader ranging than our current focus on exchanges; council seems to have an interest, regardless. Larry stated a committee or group could bring forward a plan to be developed on the topic and make a presentation it to the council. Larry discussed options on two useable sites at the current bridge crossing and what the utilization may be. Christine will do some additional background work and return with options.

For next meeting, need more on environmental, changes to goals and opportunities, guest speaker for questions. Get some questions together for the next session. Paul will have his passport ready.

Review of meeting - Very positive responses, all are glad the application is being forwarded.

Next meeting, Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 4pm in the riverside room. Additional meetings are scheduled June 15 and June 29 adjourned 5:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III

Assistant Fire Chief