Committee Meeting

Kathy passed out packets of information with the agenda, sister cities info on Puyang, and meeting minutes from 10-19 and 11-2. Bill passed out information found on Levin, New Zealand - interesting because of the scenic area and the explosion in population. Mary passed out MEGTEC note binders to the represented members.

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

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

Review of meeting minutes - Mary stated that we still had the spelling on the province in China wrong, spelling should be Song Jiang. Also on the November 2 minutes they should state that Mary was going to see if articles will be acceptable to the business journals and would issue her findings. Jim showed Kathy an email that stated we could utilize their logos for publication as members, given to Larry for review.

Larry stuck his head in and stated that he would not be able to attend. Kathy discussed a note from Ben who offered any assistance with a specific assignment but was unable to attend meetings due to other conflicts. Kathy stated she would definitely take advantage of the offer. Mary has a book that she will retrieve for Paul dealing with the Chinese areas. Kathy spoke with Russ Gerke at West De Pere High School with regard to a student or group. She also spoke with Sam Dunlop from St. Norbert with regard to a foreign student. Rachael Dickhut from the community center will probably be joining us but Kathy was unable to speak directly with her. Dr. Joy Ferratz with Aurora Health will submit a medical professional to be a part of the committee.

Discussion was initiated about the level of participation and when these people would be getting involved. The consensus appeared to be that no matter what stage we are at we will continue to need community support to progress.

Lynn stated that although she has not received a formal response from the women's club, she feels that they will be extremely supportive of our efforts. Lynn believes that if we come up with something firmer for them to be involved in, they will do it. Jim spoke directly to Dr. VanSistine, he stated that he is very interested in the project and participating but that the meetings are during the busiest time on the busiest day for him. He suggested moving the time and/or day, I stated the council members on the committee would probably be opposed to that, he said to keep him informed and he would be interested as we move forward.
Discussion on possible city sites. Mary asked to discuss the Milevsko site; she noted that the committee felt bad about not proceeding with one of our prime candidates. She had interviewed the foreman who lived in the community while the facility was being established. His opinion was that the site would not be a good fit, once he heard our intentions. He felt the town was much too small and did not even believe there was a hotel present in the village. The feeling is we would be embarrassed by the lack of facilities, towns within several miles of each other feud continuously and won't even talk to each other. Additional suggestion is a site in Germany that is just being established and may be a good alternative.

Mary will research the information on Maintal-Dornigheim and get her book back with the information on Song Jiang. Suggested caution on China due to it being a communist country. Paul suggested that Viet Nam is also a booming country like China that could hold potential. It was discussed that this may be too politically sensitive still. Discussed that Puyang is a developing and industrious site that may warrant a second look. Paul will make contact with the California contact person listed to see what they might be looking for in a partner.

Discussions about other potentials for partners, Riccardo is abroad and has a separate agenda for wanting Pontassieve, Italy. Discussion about Song Jiang, China being communist making ideologies and interactions difficult but still wanted more information. French do not like Americans for Ingre, France. Not enough information for decision making on Maintal-Dornigheim, Germany, seems to be suburban to Frankfort.

Paul asked for more help with questions he should ask of the Chinese representative. What is his relationship with the city and why is he promoting it. Emphasize our priorities, as they would relate to this city. Bill could not find the German site, lots of hotels but nothing on the city itself. Also looking at New Zealand most of the cities seem exceptionally large, after looking more he found Levin, which appears to be a decent match and happens to be of comparable size. It has a small college in the community and many of the same industries. An extended discussion ensued on New Zealand and it's potential for business interaction the college has a contact that could be used. Mary suggested creating a top five list.

Kathy started reviewing additional potential partners that she pulled from the sister city web site. Samtredia, Georgia (a Russian Republic) desires a working cross-cultural exchange of ideas, concepts, and networking, sounds like after years of corruption. Krosno, Poland sounds very poor. Odiongan, Philippines Mary is aware of a courier who suggested that females are treated poorly and should not travel alone in the Philippines, it may be very uncomfortable for women dealing with this culture. Nepal travel restrictions are in place. Balykchy, Kyrgyzstan very, very high unemployment and other associated issues. Lisakhstan, Kazakhstan metallurgy, beer holidays, a tech college, dance and arts with over forty different nationalities living together. Savannalamar, Jamaica seems to be more tourists oriented. Committee discussed tourism issues and whether the interaction and exchange with a large tourist site would have a positive influence here. Jerolyn felt that it would not be exceptionally beneficial to the city. Maruni, Armenia fishing is a major influence. Soncheonygun, South Korea medical herbs benchmarking looking to open a market in North America.

The Committee current top five are Lisakhstan, Kazakhstan; Song Jiang, China; Maintal-Dornigheim, Germany; Levin, New Zealand; and Puyang, China.

Mary will put pull info from the web to make the goals statement into a mission statement for the committee. She stated that the Bay Business journal would only accept articles for members of the Green Bay Chamber of Commerce. Jerolyn stated that we are members but the BBJ primarily
focuses on business. Market Place approached the article more from a business focus looking to provide a general news release about searching for sister cities would be published. They seemed to have more interest in once a sister is selected to do the article for cities around the State of Wisconsin. Mary could have her PR guy do a news release and submit it. Jerolyn would like more businesses to be involved. Discussion determined that the articles to the business journals would wait. Mary suggested we talk to other sister cities groups to gather input on how they worked through the process, Kathy stated we had already done this and they all seem different depending on focus. Discussions surrounded the Appleton groups and Steven Point. Kathy will check for other cities that may have similar relationships to the committees.

Bill will continue to research Levin. Paul will call the contact on Puyang and check with the college in New Zealand. Mary will work on the mission. All need to continue research for a suitable site.

Meeting review: Paul noted that the refreshments had declined for this gathering but the binder from Megtec was exceptionally nice. Kathy is doing a great job on keeping the committee moving. Mary is a fantastic addition to the committee it's nice having information on world affair rather than hitting them blind. Mary is very excited to participate. Great, feeling we are working to narrow things down.

Next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, November 30 at 4:00. December meeting planning on hold until the next meeting. Adjourned 5:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III

Assistant Fire Chief