CITY OF DE PERE

Sister Cities Committee
De Pere, WI 54115

Date: January 18, 2007

Committee Meeting

Kathy passed out packets of information with the agenda, meeting time survey, meeting minutes from 11-30-06, and review information for Levin. There were no meetings over the holidays.

Meeting called to order at 16:03 by Committee Chair Kathy VanVonderen in the Council Chambers at city hall (moved to the law library shortly afterwards, to stay out of the courts' way).

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

Review of meeting minutes - Noted an incorrect spelling for Sarah (with an H) in the past minutes.

Kathy started to discuss the meeting time and day survey, she had just received the Mayors last night (he is All Monday and Wednesday, am only on Tuesday and Thursday) has difficulty at 4 o'clock because of the grandkids. Extended discussion on revising the date and time based on the survey. Final decision to keep the time and day schedule the same, perhaps the few who were unable to attend could recommend alternates interested in participation.

Discussion over the letter from Jay Harris evolved into a general discussion on the inclusion of outside people who may have had some personal interests but no ties to the city. Members were very positive about inclusion of more members but somewhat apprehensive about potential for getting sidetracked. Members were exceptionally enthusiastic over inviting those interests who could assist us with our focus especially on youth. Kathy suggested we need to look at all our key focuses as part of the process in identifying potential pools of additional members. Discussion on whether additional members may be counter-productive because of committee size and focuses. It was decided to wait until a sister connection can be made before soliciting large numbers to join the committee.

Bill provided an overview of the City of Levin, New Zealand. As a background, he had been looking on the web in the Oceana Region for cities of a similar size and came across Levin. Bill mailed them a letter, to the local University, attempting to ascertain any interest in partnering. They sent back a large packet of information about the area along with some mementoes and a book on the city. They wish an exchange especially along business and cultural lines. Bill suggested staying in contact because they were very positive and fairly prompt in the response, he added that it appeared the letter he wrote was forwarded through channels till it reached Larry's counterpart in that city. The information relayed shows that it seems to be the business center of a country area, more suburban than anything else. The rest of the area is more agricultural. Christine may have visited in this general area. A lot of the information relates to Foxton, Fox(s) this and that, etc., which most found
Discussion over the article recently published in the newspaper that stated a decision had been made. Larry stated he was not surprised based on recent occurrences that it was wrong. He also stated that he was encouraging the Mayor to write a regular column on volunteers and could ask the mayor to write something for the paper. Discussions on additional contact and the best way to proceed. Bill and Kathy suggested the other should follow-up with Levin. Kathy will follow-up with Bill's help. Mary will attempt to make a corporate contact familiar with the area to verify the locale is suitable. It was decided to stick with our two main possibilities for the time being. Mary will further check on Karlovy Vary and Jim will check into Banska Bystrica just in case the Levin option falls through. Discussion started on city selection and whether they were sister city program participants. Larry stated that the Sister Cities International could make those contacts and approach potential partners about joining. Decision that this is probably the best approach and the sister cities staff were just waiting to assist us.

Kathy passed along a card for Sarah Meredith, thanking her for her insights and knowledge. Mary stated that her contact had not responded for Amal, Sweden

Mary discussed what we should be doing in developing a mission statement for our committee. She suggested a brainstorming session and providing emphasis on our primary goals in development. Discussions revolved about our purpose and identity. Larry suggested, a mutual exchange of ideas and cultures to promote… Jerilyn suggested, establishing a partnership (relationship) that is mutually beneficial to learn from other cultures. Further discussions about statements and comment that Disney Company's was simple "to make people happy."

Discussion on what they (Levin) sent to us and what we should send to them. Bill sent them a link to our web site. DBA and SNC should be linked through the site, discussions about possible books that could be sent about De Pere. Kathy and Larry will get together and gather items to send as a form of response. Discussions about the appropriateness of certain items and what we want to send. Items are to be dropped off to Lori (bring four copies of whatever, in case Levin doesn't pan out) that can be sent; brought in by next Friday.

Assignments - Develop more things to put into the mission and vision statement providing for a single phrase connection to sister cities, other sites review, and packets for New Zealand; correspond back to Jay with other information on New Zealand. Kathy will respond to Levin sending a formal packet from the city. Discussion about what else we may want to incorporate school brochures, district newsletters, etc.

Jim Suggested moving the meeting to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, so as to not interfere with court. Next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 22 and March 8, 22 at 4:00. Adjourned 5:16 pm.

Review of meeting - moving right along, doing fine, better with chocolate, glad we are narrowing it down, good progress excited about the project.

Bill Patzke (retired) email is: jpatzke@new.rr.com

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Stupka III
Assistant Fire Chief