



Tacoma Sister City Council Meeting
April 24, 2024

Attendance:

Terry Spuck, Membership Chair; Clare Petrich, Chair, Split, Croatia; Frances Lorenz, Vice Chair, Cien Fuegos, Cuba Chair; Linda McCrea, Treasurer, Alesund, Norway Chair; Monica Herbert Tulula, Colombia Chair; Helen Milus, Youth and Education Chair, Boca del Rio Chair; Greg Youtz, Fuzhou, China, Chair; Debbie Bingham, City of Tacoma; Melannie Denise Cunningham, George/Garden Route Chair; Maricres Castro, Davao, Philippines, Chair

Meeting Began at 5:15

Chair-Clare Petrich

- Status of SOW with City of Tacoma--Invoices are being processed.
- Review Annual Calendar

Calendar will note that all events are open to TSC members unless otherwise noted. Clare will send an updated calendar. Here is what was presented at the meeting:

April

- 5th Deadline for Tacoma YAAS Applications
- 14-21 El Jadida Trip to Morocco to re-establish and build relationships
- 15th Book Club 6:30pm to King's Books
- 24th Council Meeting at APCC

May

- 18th Music at Reconciliation Park 3-8
- 13th Book Club 6:30 King's Books
- 16th Fawcett Elementary Global Breakfast 7 to 9
- 24th Council Meeting at APCC

June

- 1-2 Point Defiance Flower and Garden Show, Kitakyushu cultural content and booth
- 10 Book Club 6:30 King's Books
- 29 Ocean Fest, Foss Waterway Seaport Museum featuring Recycling & Paper Mache Artist Nives Cin-Cin Sain from Split, Croatia
- 24th Council Meeting at APCC



- Seeking recyclable items for Croatian Artist coming to Tacoma for month of June. Featured artist at OCEANFEST.

Plastic bottles are needed. Please contact Clare Petrich if you have clean recyclable plastic bottles to donate.

Garden Route Committee Report—Melannie Denise Cunningham

- Report on Trips to Garden Route, South Africa.
- See Attached documents provided by SA committee for full details of trip and associated motions listed in “Motions” section of notes.
- Melannie Denise Cunningham of the George TSC committee outlined the need to amend the relationship to George to expand to the Garden Route Region with a detailed presentation including significant input from committee members and governmental representatives from Garden Route Municipal district. Political factors related to systemic racism and a general mismatch of city dynamics makes expanding the relationship to the Garden Route Municipal District a positive move forward (See attached documents and Motions section of these minutes for action items.)

Treasurer-Linda McCrea (separate report to be sent before next council meeting—secretary has requested details but didn’t want to delay sending the rest of the minutes 5/1)

Secretary Report

- 4 Mini Grants Received (Note, all applicants must have a representative attending our council meetings regularly). The due date is June 30th, but also, the amount allocated to the Mini Grant program is finite (10K) and the board is considering the applications on a first come, first served basis. The mini-grant application will be sent again w/minutes.

Youth & Education-Helen Milus

- YAAS—Another successful cycle with participants from Fuzuh, Brovary and Tacoma. Some highlights include an original music piece and poetry. This will be the final year for YAAS. A film creator program will replace it with the winners featured at future film festivals.
- Fawcett—We are hosting a Global Breakfast on May 16th and need committees to contribute a snack or breakfast food for 50 individuals. Food needs to be pre-packaged and brought to Fawcett by 7 am. Plates and utensils are being provided by the school. Please provide decorative items for your committee’s section of the breakfast table. Please contact Helen Milus for details.



- Proposing TSC Fawcett School Project for SCI Innovation Award

Membership-Terry Spuck

- There will be a shop space at upcoming events for committees to sell items. Art on the Ave will be on July 21st and Mosaic will be on July 27th.
- Terry asked for ideas on what could be sold.
- A discussion was had regarding ideas, such as Ukrainian Art, Norwegian baked goods, etc.
- The expectation is that committees will make their own arrangements to pay any third party that provides items, such as art, and the sales proceeds will be provided to the committees for the items they sell.
- Each committee selling something needs to be in touch with Terry and expect to send a representative to assist.
- Items will be sold via our Square account in order to cut down on the difficulty of cashiering.
- Booth volunteers will be needed for set up and for shifts through out the day. Contact Terry Spuck for more details.

City Committee Reports

Fuzouh, China-Greg Youtz

- Update on USCHINA SUMMIT
- Update was shared regarding the potential of two exchange programs in process through other organization associated with Ron Chow Foundation for sending Tacoma youth to China for cultural exchange. The Fuzhou committee is hoping to send up to 10 students. The mayor will be going to Fuzouh but the visit will not coincide with the student groups. May meet them in Beijing. Looking for Stadium and Lincoln Students.

El Jadida, Morocco- Frances Lorenz

- Delegation Report: El Jadida, Morocco with focus on reestablishing SC relationship.
- Frances Lorenz reported that she would rather wait to give a full report until Waizira is back and can contribute. She gave some details, including the fact that civil unrest disrupted the meetings with governmental offices. But meetings with committed citizens was possible and the trip was an enriching and productive experience.



Kitakyushu, Japan-Mira Utz

- Ongoing work in process for fixing the Shrine at Point Defiance; Full participants in the Point Defiance Flower and Garden Show
- Chair taking personal trip to include a visit to Kitakyushu Sister City contacts to mark the 65th Anniversary of the Kitaq/Tacoma Sister City Relationship

Alesund, Norway-Linda McCrea

- Nordic Fest May 27 at PLU.

Davao, Philippines-Maricres Castro

- Supreme court meeting went well. There is a direct flight now from Seattle to Manila. A Pilipino town is being formed in Seattle. June 20th is World Refugee Day and the committee is seeking judges for a talent show. Contact for more detail

Tulula, Colombia- Monica Herbert

Working to form committee; Meeting with local Colombian expats, council members and community organizations. Hope to connect researchers at UWT to Tulua researchers. In talks with representatives at UW Tacoma.

Motions

Youth and Diplomacy Opportunity SCI Youth Leadership Summit August 5-9, 2024
Move to partially fund 2 Tacoma students to attend the 2024 SCI Youth Leadership Summit for \$1500.

1. Motion by Frances Lorenz and Seconded by Helen Milius; Unanimous “aye” votes. Motion Passes

Four Motions regarding the George/Garden Route Sister City update

1. Move to “sunset” the Tacoma-George Sister City Committee (TGSCC). Motioned by Linda McCrea and Seconded by Helen Milus; Unanimous “Aye” votes. Motion Passes
2. Move to endorse/support the formation of the Tacoma- Garden Route District Sister City Committee. Motioned by Terry Spuck and Seconded by Greg Yutz; Unanimous “Aye” votes. Motion Passes.
3. Endorse the renaming of the Tacoma-George Sister City Committee (TGSCC) to the Tacoma-Garden Route District Sister City Committee (TGRDSCC). Motioned by Linda McCrea and Seconded by Terry Spuck; Unanimous “Aye” votes. Motion Passes.



4. Move to endorse all efforts to welcome a delegation from the Garden Route District of South Africa to Tacoma and pledge to support the work as needed and agreed.

Motioned by Frances Lorenz and seconded by Helen Milus; Unanimous "Aye" votes. Motion Passes.

Adjourn at 7:15