

**Sister Cities of Durham
Board of Directors Meeting**

May 5, 2024

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes

7:00 Call to Order: Tom Harris, Pres.

Roll Call: Leslie Fisher, Randy Griffin, Tom Harris, Ronda Pierce, Gwenn Bookman, Chris Boyer, Nancy Cox, Mitch Scrutu, Dot Borden, Patricia Sheppard, Susan Ochala, Min Shu, Bob Ashley and Leslie Fischer

Guest: Brady Surles and Carolina Vera

Absent: Lusia Lu, Elsa Jimenez, Mark Goodwillie

Review of Agenda and Opening Remarks:

President Harris presented the agenda.

Chris Boyer asked that Asian Pan Pacific American History month be added to New Business and President Harris accepted the request.

Approval of Minutes March 7th, 2024:

On page 4 of the minutes, Brady Surles shared concerns about the accuracy of the comments. Tom clarified that while the content may not be correct, this is what was stated. Chris Boyer moved to approve the minutes Leslie Fischer seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Randy Griffith moved to amend the November 2, 2023 minutes for minor, proposed changes.

Chris Boyer seconded. After reading the proposed changes, they were provided to the secretary to be corrected:

1. mistakenly put 2024
2. top of page 1 deleting "draft minutes recorded by Nancy Cox" since my name is at the bottom of the minutes
3. Add after Brady Surles, representing Durham, Uk
4. Page 2 approval of city committee to ratification not approve per the bylaws
5. in the motion by Randy it should be ratification
6. Page 3 instead of board "of" put board committee
7. add to where Susanna O motioned-with the corrections

Treasurer's Report Min Shu, Treasurer

1. FY 23-24 3rd Qtr. Report

Min Shu presented the Profit and Loss statement. President Harris determined that we will discuss the budget at our June meeting; while we accepted the Treasurer's report, we did not approve at this time.

2. City of Durham Reimbursement Update

City of Durham Reimbursement - President Harris shared that the report has been submitted for the full amount. More information will be provided at our June meeting.

President's Report

1. New City Inquiry – Liberia

President Harris was asked by the Mayor Williams to contact. Tom spoke with the contact. Need to determine if there is interest in Durham from the Liberian community. The contact has a city in mind within Liberia. He has not been back in touch with Tom.

Brady and Tom are currently the city committee.

2. June 6 Meeting: Purpose and Preparation

President Harris has called a special meeting for June 6. The goal is to align the budget approval process with the beginning of the Fiscal Year, July 1st, and to make plans for the Board's activities for the fiscal year. The city committees need to draw up their fiscal plans. President Harris asked that each city come to the June 6 meeting prepared to discuss one local activity and one exchange. (virtual or in person). Through a discussion of the city's planned activities, we will know whether we need to fundraise, allocate funds, and identify other kinds of assistance a city committee may need.

Sister City Committee Reports: Arusha; Celaya (15 min. presentation); Durham UK; Kavala; Sibiu; Tilaran; Toyama; Zhuzhou

Arusha

- Ronda Pierce and Gwenn Bookman, co-chairs, presented that they have successfully completed Swahili conversation classes at the bistro, Afrikikos; they are pleased with the partnership they had with a community business. They met twice a month from February through April. The Palace catered. 10 participants. Susanna Ocholoa, also a member of the Arusha Committee, noted that the template for this program is now in place.

Celaya

- Dr. Carolina Verat made a virtual presentation to the Board on an opportunity to partner with Dental students and faculty in Celaya and Dental Faculty at UNC Dental School. Dr. Verat is an adjunct professor at UNC and Rochester Medical Center.

Durham

- Leslie Fischer and Eve Marion, co-chairs shared details on their planning efforts for the Two Durham Beer Festival to be held Friday, June 14th at Durham Central Park.
- They also shared that the Durham, UK Mayor did not fully participate in the recent Mayor's zoom call. They noted that their key person in Durham, UK has retired and recognize that they are in a rebuilding stage

Kavala

- Randy Griffith, Chair, shared that the city of Kavala has reorganized their city government and the young men who were supposed to come this summer will not be coming;; they will hopefully be coming next summer.

Sibiu

- Mitch Scurtu, Chair, shared that he has made a proposal for the classical music festival and is waiting for feedback from Sibiu.

- He also noted that there are opportunities to partner with the Medical community in Sibiu.

Tilaran - no report

Toyama

- Chris Boyer, Chair, shared that Sister Cities International is tackling a project to create a book of origin stories for US and Japanese city relationships. Dot Borden, founding member of SCD and member of the Toyama committee, and Chair Boyer will be meeting to create a google document of our origin story with Toyama by August 1st.
- She also noted that the SCI worldwide 2025 Japan Summit will be near Osaka, Japan.
- Chris Boyer shared that Toyama committee member Yuki Temma has a Japanese food tasting project May 16 to 12:25 to 1:10pm at the Holton Career and Resource Center and that Nancy Cox and Ronda Pierce supported Yuki Temma's previous food tasting on food from Arusha. Palace catered the event.
- Chris Boyer also shared a point of interest - The Denver Sister City program has opened travel to France and she and her husband are going in the Fall.

Zhuzhou - no report

Kunshan - no report

Board Committees Reports: Marketing; Fundraising; Membership; Nominating

Nancy Cox, Chair of Marketing shared that Marketing will be merging with the Fundraising committee and that Mark Goodwillie will be the Chair.

Membership

Patricia Shepherd, Chair, shared that the committee held a small interest meeting on March 14 to host potential new members and following up with them.

There is a new member who has shown interest in two different cities, Elsa Jimenez, Celaya and Patricia have been chatting with her to identify how she will engage.

Dot Borden and Ronda Pierce wrote a letter to Zwelli Williams, Mayor William's wife, who expressed interest in becoming a member.

Nominating

Tom Harris pointed out that the nominating committee needs to identify someone to replace Bob Ashley. Susanna Ochala suggested Ms. Fogg at the last meeting; Nominating will follow up.

Brochure Committee Report:

Brady Surles, Member (Office Manager) provided information on the development of the updated brochure. Members offered brief feedback; it was positively received.

Board Activity Reports:

1. Mayor's Roundtable, Ronda Pierce, who led coordination of the zoom call of Mayors shared that a review will be provided soon. The presentation highlighted the opportunities for collaboration between all of the cities represented. Plans are being made and discussions are taking place to overcome some barriers around different time zones and language.

2. School Food Fests, Yuki Temma, who is leading this project provided a report on the most recent food tasting at Holton Career and Resource Center and on upcoming tastings.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. Celaya City Committee Proposal - President Harris postponed discussion until our June meeting when city committee projects are discussed.

2. Does the Board need to meet in July? President Harris indicated that we will make this decision at our June meeting.

3. Armory Opportunity, Nancy Cox provided a reminder that nonprofits can request booking the Armory June 14th. Discussion ensued regarding the booking opportunity of the Armory. June 14 at the Armory.

4. Asian month - Chris Boyer noted that May is Asian Pacific American month and suggested that the Chairs of Zhouzhou, Kunshan and Toyama come together to generate ideas on how to recognize the month.

Announcements

June 9th Food Truck Rodeo at Durham Central Park - Durham, UK will staff the booth.

Adjournment

Future 2024 Board Meetings:

June 6; July 11; Sept. 5; Nov. 7.

Annual Meeting: October 18.