

Sister Cities of Durham, NC, Inc.

Bi-Monthly Meeting, Board of Directors

7:00 pm, Thursday, July 6, 2023

Virtual Meeting on Zoom Minutes

Attending:

Tom Harris, Chris Boyer, Mark Goodwillie, Patricia Sheppard, Sue Matthias, Bob Ashley Ronda Pierce, Randy Griffin, Yuki Temma, Brady Surles. Dot Borden

Absent:

Gwenn Bookman, Susanna Ochala, Min Shu, Celaya, Durham-UK, Sibiu, Tilaran, Zhuzhou.

Guests: Carolyn Surles

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Tom Harris.

The minutes of the May 5, 2023 Board Meeting were approved.

The Financial Report stated that the General Fund Bank Balance on 6/30/23 was \$8,650.97.

Our 2nd City Reimbursement for 2022-23 is \$8,293.16, which will come in July, giving us a total of \$16,944.13.

President Tom Harris covered the following items:

1. The goal to attain SEI certification is the end of the 2023 year.
2. The New Cities Committee reported they have asked the Friendship City Kunshan continue as a Friendship City and expand its projects, and this will be re-evaluated after one year to consider full Sister City status.
3. Need for a Webmaster. We can hire someone to re-design the web page, but will need a webmaster.

Executive Director Brady Surles reported on the following items:

1. The 2023-24 draft budget is being worked on, and an update will be sent to the board before the Sept board meet.
2. We need a chair for Centerfest, Sept. 17 - 18
3. We need Chairs for the two major awards:
 - a) Dorothy Borden Long Term Volunteer Award (SCD members)
 - b) Mayors Awards for "Promoting International Understanding"

City Committee Reports: No reports from Celaya, Sibiu, Tilaran

Arusha: Developing a partnership with the Global Academy.

Celaya: Chair Elsa Jimenez is recovering from surgery. They have one new member who plans to recruit members.

Durham: Their 2nd Annual Two Durhams Beer Festival, June 9, was a big success with 1,500 attendees

The plans for the visit of Castle Theatre of Durham University, August 27-30 are developing well.

Kavala: The SCD delegation to Kavala, June 27 – July 5 was successful with 3 SCD adults, and 1 student.

Toyama: Arranging a visit to the Japanese Tea Garden at Duke Gardens for the SCI conference in late July.

They are planning a trip to Toyama for adults in the Fall.

Zhuzhou is following up on developing Pen Pal relationships

The SCI conference in Durham, July 26 – 28 will include two events that SCD can participate in.

Board Committee Reports: No Reports.

Motion was made for the Board to go in to a Closed Session to discuss the “withdrawal of resignation” by the Executive Director.

Upon reconvening for the general board meeting, it was announced that the Board did not vote to accept

the “withdrawal of resignation” by the Executive Director.

Therefore, SCD does not have an Executive Director now, effective immediately.

Action Items: None

Announcements and Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Next Meeting is May 4.

2023 Board Meetings, 1st Thursdays, 7 pm: March 2, May 4; July 6; Sept 7; Annual Meet– Oct. TBD; Nov 2

Respectfully Submitted, Brady Surles, Acting Secretary

