

**Sister Cities of Durham, NC, Inc. Bi-Monthly Meeting, Board of Directors**  
**7:00 pm, Thursday, May 4, 2023**  
**Virtual Meeting on Zoom Minutes**

**Attending:** Tom Harris, Chris Boyer, Mark Goodwillie, Patricia Sheppard, Gwenn Bookman, Sue Matthias, Min Shu, Ronda Pierce, Nancy Proia, Randy Griffin, Yuki Temma, Brady Surles.

**Absent:** Bob Ashley, Susanna Ochala, Celaya, Sibiu, Tilaran, Zhuzhou. Guests: Nancy Cox

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

The minutes of the March 2, 2023 Board Meeting were approved.

The Financial Report stated that the General Fund Balance on 4/30/23 was \$24,479.43. The Quarterly Report for Jan – Mar, 2023 was presented.

President Tom Harris covered the following items:

1. He reminded all of the Diversity Policy adopted in 2021, and the Conflict of Interest Policy.
2. Announced that Min Shu has agreed to be Treasurer, and Lusia Li as Asst Treasurer.
3. Need for Board Nominees:
  - a) Bob Ashley and Sue Mathias are completing their terms on the Board,
  - b) Chris Boyer and Gwenn Bookman have agreed to stand for a second term.

Executive Director Brady Surles reported on the following topics:

1. Assistance is needed for the Two Durhams Beer Festival on June 9 for set up and staffing the SCD Booth.
2. Board minutes are now posted on our web page in the documents section.
3. The delegation going to Kavala, June 26 – July 5 is the first since the delegation to Tilaran in February, 2020.
4. The hope is that the two high school students going to Kavala will begin a student exchange program.
5. The proposed International Food Festival, Aug. 5 in the Durham Armory was discussed.

After a full discussion, it became apparent that it would be difficult to do with only 2 or 3 City Committees available to participate. Other options may be considered for use of that arrangement at the Armory

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

**City Committee Reports:**

No reports from Celaya, Sibiu, Tilaran

Arusha: has 4 students participating in the SCI Young Authors and Artists competition on "Food Security"

Durham, UK: 5 local breweries partnering with Durham, UK breweries for their 2nd Annual Two Durhams Beer Festival.

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

Kavala: The plans for the SCD delegation to Kavala, June 26 – July 5 are developing well. 4 SCD adults, 2 students.

Toyama: is working with DTCC for students to participate in a partnership program with Toyama students

On April 1, they joined Durham Parks/Recreation for their kite festival with focus on Japanese kites.

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

Zhuzhou is following up on developing Pen Pal relationships

### **Board Committee Reports:**

**Membership:** The Open House at City Hall on March 7 was successful and plans are to do this twice a year.

Festival of Nations is on hold, depending on other developments, but may do a scaled down version Oct. 8.

Old Business: None

New Business: The first draft of the 2023 – 2024 budget was presented for information purposes.

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