



Village of Hanover Park Administration

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Bob Prigge

Village Manager
Juliana A. Maller

VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

2121 Lake Street, Hanover Park, Illinois 60133

Thursday, February 10, 2022

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Sister Cities Committee Chair Pamela Fowler.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Pamela Fowler, Trustee Herb Porter, Frank Grant-Acquah, Jessica Ramirez, Darius Robinson,
ABSENT: Committee Members: Arnulfo Flores-Auxiliary, Adelaide Grant-Acquah, Maria Pineda, Gustavo Pineda-Auxiliary,
ALSO PRESENT: Staff Liaison Katherine Perez

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Motion by Trustee Porter to accept agenda. Second by Jessica. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Darius to approve meeting minutes from November 22, 2021 and January 27, 2021 (no quorum); second by Jessica. Voice vote: all ayes. No discussion. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

5-a. Penpal program status – proposed letter exchange in February 2022 dependent on whether classes are in session and availability of local administrators to facilitate (Trustee Porter/Jessica) – When Jessica visited Valparaiso in December, she was in contact with school administration there. She was informed that following a brief period of in-person classes, the school would again be reverting back to remote learning due to an increase in covid cases at the school. Discussion followed, and the committee determined that it won't be possible to facilitate any penpal activity in the immediate future due to the amount time needed to coordinate a reciprocal letter exchange and also the question of sustainability given the demands and challenges on school administrators as they transition between remote and in-person classes. Chair Pamela motioned

to table the penpal program for now and re-launch it later to coincide with the new 2022-23 school year. Second by Trustee Porter. Voice vote: all ayes. Motion carried. Item will remain on the agenda as "continued" and will be discussed at the end of June.

- 5-b. Travel planning for 2023 Cape Coast visit – Trustee Porter requested that Frank prepare a Cape Coast status report with recommendations on how to move forward with the Hanover Park-Cape Coast relationship. Trustee Porter commented that consideration can be given to re-directing funds earmarked for scholarships. Plans for traveling to Cape Coast will also need to be addressed. Due to the current focus on the Juneteenth event planning, Frank's report will be placed on the June meeting agenda.

Trustee Porter reported that he had further researched the components of getting a 501c3 established. When he talked to Village Attorney Bernie Paul, he was advised against the committee forming a 501c3. Instead, he said that the committee could fundraise, make a deposit with the Village, and designate that money for Sister Cities. This would allow for Sister Cities to be able to take donations as has been done by other Village committees such as what was done by the Veterans Committee for its war dog memorial. The Village Attorney also suggested contacting business owners for donations, both from within and outside of the village. As an example, ad space in printed programs could be sold.

Trustee Porter suggested inviting a member of the Finance Department to a meeting so the committee's questions can be answered about all that would be involved with having donation money deposited with the Village.

It was noted that when the committee does begin fundraising for the Cape Coast visit, whatever is collected would be used solely for projects there and not for travel expenses related to the visit. The school is now closed, but there's a lot of work that can be done at the hospital to help meet patient needs. Collaborating with the US/Ghana group or service organizations would be another way to support Cape Coast projects and provide financial contributions.

- 5-c. Valparaiso scholarships (FY2021) update (Jessica) – funds distribution pending verification of the designated recipient's contact information and confirmation that the school is open with classes being conducted – Jessica confirmed that the scholarship money for the school in Valparaiso had been received. Via email, the school also provided verification of receipt of the money. The funds will be distributed based on need and awarded to the selected students when the school re-opens. "Need" is now being driven by covid which has had devastating effects on the community including the ability of a family to earn a livelihood. Sadly, many are suffering and there is much violence in the area with two cartels fighting for land.
- 5-d. Review of Sister Cities brochure with corrections and new photos; to be finalized for editorial board approval prior to translation into Spanish – The draft brochure was reviewed. The final copy will look much better once its properly formatted and the new photos are re-sized and inserted. There's a spot in the brochure reserved for a group photo of the committee which will be taken in front of the dais in the Village board room. Tentative plans are to have the photo taken on January 24 at 6:30 p.m., and once Katherine verifies availability and gets permission to be in the room, she will send a confirming email to the committee.
- 5-e. Juneteenth 2022 event (Saturday, June 18, 2022) – program development; design theme for

- 5-e. promotional material; entertainment; event activities; vendors; and collaboration with Village Special Events, and volunteers from CIDC & other Village committees – Chair Pamela extended appreciation to Darius for the perseverance theme development and for co-chairing the Juneteenth event. Chair Pamela inquired about the status of the Special Events Committee collaboration with the Sister Cities Committee. Trustee Porter advised that the committee hadn't met for some time, but he is optimistic that they can help and will want to provide support. Trustee Porter advised that he had discussed the Juneteenth event with Trustee Syed Hussaini who suggested that a member of the Sister Cities Committee attend a CIDC meeting to make a presentation about the event plans and to define what is wanted. Trustee Porter commented that an outline would be helpful, and Chair Pamela advised that she had already prepared one. She noted findings from her research about Juneteenth history and traditions, specifically the colors associated with the holiday (red, white, blue) and activities (family fun, picnics, BBQ, fireworks). The occasion is also celebrated with special foods including fried chicken, sweet corn, cajun gumbo, red soda drink and red velvet cake.

The Hanover Park 2022 Juneteenth celebration will be the first event the committee has hosted in a couple years. It is essential and necessary to keep the event simple, focusing along the lines of a big party or gathering, like a backyard BBQ with some music and dancing, similar to a Mexican Independence celebration, not a Black History Month event. The intent is to host something that brings out the citizens to be together and have fun.

Chair Pamela commented on her experience with the past Juneteenth events she attended in Denver, and Trustee Porter described Elgin's Juneteenth activities which are put together by local citizens and not organized by the city.

It's anticipated that the event will run from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. (not including set-up and tear-down) with entertainment to include music (band and DJ) and dancing (flamenco and stepper demonstration). Tentatively, a band would play during the middle of the event with two 25-minute sets between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. followed by dance demonstrations and possibly a group dance. Jessica described a possible logistical configuration featuring tables (or stations) set up around a central stage area.

Members making recommendations were asked to be ready to report back at the next meeting regarding band ideas (Funk Brothers) and dancers (steppers and flamenco). Also at the next meeting, there will be discussion regarding vendors; advertising; program booklet with ad space; the type of food offering (catered or for sale); considerations of possibly serving alcohol; resources/approvals needed from the Village (PD, Public Works, etc.); and invited guests to open the event (commissioner, representatives).

6. TOWNHALL SESSION

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

- 7-a. Recap of recent activities – Members and guests attending the Christmas dinner at Karakas Grill had a fun evening with delicious food.

- 7-b. Budget activity update
- Review of FY2022 board approved budget.
 - Illinois State dues payment of \$50 is in process.

8. **NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):**

- 8-a. Upcoming event announcements
- The next US-Ghana zoom call is on Wednesday afternoon, February 16 (refer to email).
 - The Richton Park Sister Cities Committee is hosting the annual State conference on April 22 & 23, 2022, at venues in Tinley Park and Richton Park. Please turn in completed registration forms before the March meeting.
 - The Kids at Hope Resource Fair is on April 22 at the Park District. The Sister Cities Committee won't be able to participate this year due to the date conflict with Illinois State Conference.
 - Due to a date conflict with the Village Awards Dinner on April 28, the regular monthly meeting of the Sister Cities Committee meeting will need to be re-scheduled; date to be determined.
- 8-b. Agenda topics for upcoming meetings
- Juneteenth event planning
 - Penpal letter exchange – tabled till June
 - Cape Coast report by Frank – June meeting
 - Travel planning for 2023 Cape Coast Visit – June meeting

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Porter to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Second by Jessica. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by:

Katherine Perez, Interim Staff Liaison

Pamela Fowler, Chair
Hanover Park Sister Cities Committee