

SISTER CITY COMMISSION

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SISTER CITY COMMISSION OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS APRIL 17, 2024

On April 17, 2024 a meeting of the Sister City Commission was held at 3:30 p.m. In City Hall with Chair Rex Linder presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following commissioners present: Rex Linder, Tim Doyle, Jim Dillon, Jim Spears, Tom Stenessa, Julie Enzenberger, Patrick Roessler, Keven Sullivan, Dianna Joseph and Karin Smith. Also present Matt Sheehan of Peoria City Soccer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting were approved on motion of Jim Dillon, seconded by Patrick Roessler.

CLONMEL UPDATE

Jim Dillon reported that the Irish Sister City program continues to drift a bit since Covid, but hopefully will begin more activities next academic year.

Jim Dillon reported the Irish Fest will be on the Peoria Riverfront August 23-25, 2024.

Jim Spears said he may organize a group to go to Clonmel in 2025 for the 25th Anniversary of our Sister City relationship.

Jim Dillon reported Aiden Fennessey is working on further progress with the Bradley University/Limerick University relationship.

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN UPDATE

Patrick Roessler reported the Peoria Library is working with a library in Friedrichshafen to develop a pen pal program.

Patrick Roessler reported Peoria students will go to Friedrichshafen July 11-31, 2024. It is the longest continuous (except for Covid) student exchange between a U.S. and foreign city.

There was a discussion with Matt Sheehan about sponsoring a Sister City night at the Peoria Cityoccer game June 22, 2024. Patrick Roessler has been working with the support clubs to make it happen. Matt Sheehan is hoping to formalize a partnership with VfB Friedrichshafen Soccer team.

Rex Linder reported Friedrichshafen Mayor Andreas Brand and Zeppelin CEO Peter Gerstmann will be in Peoria the evening of June 18, 2024. Mayor Brand has said he will not seek reelection. Peter Gerstmann will retire as Zeppelin CEO October 1, 2024. We are working with Mayor Ali to have an event in City Hall recognizing them for their many contributions to furthering our relationship with Friedrichshafen.

BENXI UPDATE

No report

AYTOU UPDATE

Dianna Joseph reported on the terrible situation in Lebanon and its effect on Aytou. It has been very difficult for our friends in Lebanon. She also reported that the Aytou Relief Committee continues to send approximately \$3,000 a month for food, medicine and other items.

Dianna Joseph reported the 110th Anniversary of the Itoo Society will be at the annual Itoo Shish Kabob June 29-30, 2024

OTHER

Tim Doyle, Dianna Joseph and Jim Dillon reported that the Annual International Dinner will be at the Itoo Hall on April 26, 2024. Friends of Friedrichshafen, Friends of Clonmel and Friends of Aytou have been working diligently to make it another successful evening. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 5:45 p.m.

CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS COMMISSION

None

NEXT MEETING

July 17, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., in City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.