

SISTER CITY COMMISSION

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

On July 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, Jim Spears, Karin Smith, Diane Joseph, Tom Stenesa, Patricia Melaik, Kevin Sullivan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting were approved on motion of Jim Spears, seconded by Diane Joseph.

CLONMEL UPDATE

Jim Spears reported that Michael Murray is the new Mayor of Clonmel.

Jim Spears reported the Irish Fest will be held on Peoria's Riverfront August 23-25, 2024.

Jim Spears took 80 people to Clonmel 3/31/24.

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN UPDATE

Patrick Roesler gave a written report on the Student Exchange for 2024 where Peoria students went to Friedrichshafen July 11-31, 2024. It is the longest continuous (excepting Covid years) student exchange between an American city and its foreign sister city.

The sponsorship of the June 22, 2024, Peoria City Soccer drew a big crowd. It gave good exposure for the Commission and our Sister City relationships.

Rex Linder reported that during the June visit of Mayor Andreas Brand, Zeppelin CEO Peter Gerstmann, incoming Zeppelin CEO Matthias Benz and Vice-Chairman Heribert Hierholzer were recognized in a ceremony at City Hall where Mayor Ali presented Mayor Brand and Mr. Gerstmann with keys to our city in appreciation for their life-long support of our relationship with Friedrichshafen.

BENXI UPDATE

Rex Linder reported that the State of Illinois Chinese office in Shanghai has approached us about renewing interaction with Benxi. More details to follow.

AYTOU UPDATE

Diane Joseph reported that the Aytou Relief Committee continues to furnish medicine and funding to Aytou. Conditions in Lebanon continue to be very difficult. Albert Couri and his wife have spent time at their home in Aytou.

OTHER

Diane Joseph reported that the Annual International Dinner on April 26, 2024, was a success with over 250 people in attendance. She also mentioned that they would possibly have the 2025 dinner the last Friday in April.

Rex Linder reported that a group of Peorians, facilitated by the Economic Development Council is investigating the possibility of Japanese Sister City. More to follow.

Rex Linder advised that he will retire as Chair October 1, 2024 and has recommended to Mayor Ali that Vice-Chair Patrick Roesler succeed him.

CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS COMMISSION

None

NEXT MEETING

October 16, 2024 at 3:30 p.m., in City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

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