



Agenda

Sister City Commission Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2026 - 4:30 PM
City Hall - Room 404

Roll Call

Minutes

- A. Approval of the April 15, 2026, Sister City Commission Minutes.

Clonmel Update, Recommendation to Receive and File

- A. Clonmel's New Mayor
B. Peoria Irish Fest
C. Other

Friedrichshafen Update, Recommendation to Receive and File

- A. 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Peoria
- 17 Guests spend several days in Peoria in June
 - Very successful, in terms of impressions and Peoria(ns) made on our guests
 - Friedrichshafen City Hall and Zeppelin Company guess particularly engaged
 - Sister City ties definitely solidified
- B. Youth Exchange 2026
- Three Youths participating, along with new chaperones
 - July 15th-August 6th
- C. 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Friedrichshafen
- 40 participants in Friedrichshafen, September 30th-October 5th
 - 19 of those in Munich for Oktoberfest as guests of the Zeppelin Company
 - More Programs to come
- D. Member Events
- Peoria Soccer Games - July 11th
 - Old Mill Vineyard in Metamora - August 23rd*
 - Raclette Dinner Party at my house - October 25th*
 - Peoria or Chicago Christkindlemarkt - November 21th*
 - German Dinner at Avanti's in Pekin - TBD*

(* - proposed events)

Benxi Update, Recommendation to Receive and File

- A. No Report
- B. Other

Aytou Update, Recommendation to Receive and File

- A. Update on conditions in Lebanon
- B. July 2026 - Peoria group in Aytou for three weeks. FOA entrance sign.
- C. Creating an annual school scholarship for Aytou students
- D. Aytou Relief Fund Updates - continue to send about \$3,000.00 to Aytou each month
- E. 59th Annual Itoo Shish-ka-bob: June 28th
- F. Other

Other

- A. Peoria Chinese Association - Update on potential Sister City relationship with the High-Tech District of Wuxi, China
- B. Dragon Boats Update
 - Two new boats are currently being shipped
 - We will have three dragon boats racing on Sunday, September 13th.
 - One boat will be displayed on the Go Day stage from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- C. Wuxi Delegation Trip
 - 11 members from Wuxi, China are scheduled to arrive on the afternoon of September 12th
 - They will be participating in the dragon boat races on September 13th, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 - They have invited the Sister City Commission members, including representatives from Caterpillar to dinner on the evening of September 12th.
 - They are also interested in meeting up on September 12th and 13th
- D. The Wuxi delegation is planning to depart for Chicago late in the afternoon on September 13th. Council Member Dr. Andre Allen is interested in meeting them and attending a Peoria Chiefs baseball game, taking them to the Peoria Riverfront Museum and touring Grandview Drive. He suggested we speak with President J.D. about obtaining baseball tickets.
- E. The Wuxi delegation is finalizing the shipment of silk products for the cultural exhibition, and Peoria Fashion Week plans to provide 15 models for the silk fashion show. The delegation is working on securing their visa.

Citizens' Opportunity to Address the Commission

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday October 21, 2026, at 4:30 PM.

Adjournment

SISTER CITY COMMISSION
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SISTER CITY COMMISSION OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS
APRIL 15, 2026

On April 15, 2026, a meeting of the Sister City Commission was held at 4:30 P.M. in City Hall Room 404 with Patrick Roesler presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following commissioners present: Randy Couri, James Dillon, Timothy Doyle, Jorell Glass, Eric Hoadley, Mengrong Hu, Diane Joseph, Rex Linder, Chris Setti, Karin Smith, Jim Spears, Thomas Stanesa, Angela Weck and Chair Patrick Roesler.

Others present: Deputy Clerk I Amanda Hilde.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from January 28, 2026, Sister City Commission Meeting were approved on the motion of Angela Weck; seconded by James Dillon.

CLONMEL UPDATE

Timothy Doyle and James Dillon provided updates from the January 31 Pub Crawl and West Peoria Parade. Discussions were held regarding the Peoria St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Irish Derby.

Discussions were held regarding connections to St. Philomena's and St. Mary's schools to consider a buddy pen-pal activity with children from Clonmel. Recognition was given to former Clonmel Maor Bare Hewitt who died in early March.

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN UPDATE

Eric Hoadley discussed the German Movie Night held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum on April 8th and co-sponsored by the German American Society. He discussed the Youth Exchange Program, noting the challenges in finding interested students were due to travel challenges and fatigue from the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Patrick Roesler and Eric Hoadley provided information on the planned events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Friedrichshafen as a Sister City, noting there was group of people from Friedrichshafen who would be in Peoria from June 3-7th to celebrate.

Eric Hoadley said there was trip planned to Friedrichshafen happening at the end of September and explained what events were planned for the trip.

BENXI UPDATE

No update.

AYTOU UPDATE

Randy Couri and Diane Joseph provided updates on conditions in Lebanon. Discussions were held regarding fund raising to help secure medicine and food for those affected. They discussed creating an annual school scholarship for Aytou Students for Fall 2026.

The St. Sharbel Food Festival on April 26th and the 59th Annual Itoo Shish-ka-bob on June 28th, were announced.

OTHER: PEORIA CHINESE ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Mengrong Hu invited the visitors from Friedrichshafen to the June 6th, Dragon Boat Performance. She provided updates on the Peoria Chinese Association's partnership with the local Fashion Week organization and the work to coordinate with the Peoria Police Department to use space at the Saturday Farmer's Market to display stuff. She said her organization had raised approximately \$16,000.00 to buy another Dragon Boat.

Mengrong Hu discussed her efforts to connect with potential Sister Cities in China.

President Patrick Roesler said it was important to get the buy of the Peoria City Council when considering additional Sister Cities. He discussed the absence of current connections with Benxi and discussions were held about re-engaging with contacts through Komatsu.

Angela Weck announced she would be taking a mission trip to Ternopil, Ukraine in May and would evaluate it as a potential Sister City location. She said on October 22, Peoria Area Global Affairs Council (PAGAC) was hosting a Global Top Chef at Caterpillar's Demonstration Center in Edwards, IL.

An announcement was made that the Sister City items in the display case on the 2nd Floor of City Hall were being moved, with a request for anyone to come collect any personal items by April 27.

CITIZENS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

No citizens wished to address the Sister City Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Sister City Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 15 at 4:30 PM in Room 404 at City Hall.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:23 PM.

/ah