



# City of Milwaukee

## Meeting Minutes

### SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

**ALDERMAN JOE DAVIS, SR., CHAIR**  
*Daisy Cubias, Al Durtka, Charles Vang and Vivian Chen*

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Friday, February 23, 2007

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

**Meeting convened: 9:05 A.M.**

1. Roll call

**Present** 5 - Cubias, Davis, Chen, Durtka, Vang

*Also present: Ronald Leonhardt-City Clerk and Amy Hefter-Legislative Reference Bureau*

2. Approval of the minutes of the January 3, 2007 meeting

*Mr. Durtka moved approval of the minutes, Ms. Cubias seconded. There were no objections.*

3. Appearances and reports given by current Sister City relationships

*None appeared.*

*Ald. Davis said that this committee may have to consider abolishing some of the current sister city relationships if this committee doesn't hear from them. He said that they need to set a time line for all the current relationships to contact this committee to schedule a time to appear before this committee and if they don't contact us this committee would move to abolish them.*

*Mr. Durtka said that he has had contact with Ms. Giese and she said that she will send a copy of the correspondence to him that she received from Schwerin Germany that states their intentions and their desire to continue a sister city relationship. He said that as soon as he receives that letter he will forward it to committee members.*

*Ald. Davis said that he will recommend that they abolish the sister city relationship with Queenstown, South Africa at this time. He then said that he will continue to work with the South Africa Consul General to look at other possible cities in South Africa that they could consider for a relationship.*

*Mr. Leonhardt appeared and said that Nuevitas, Cuba has already appeared before this committee. Ald. Davis replied that all the current sister cities relationships should be sent a formal letter inviting them to appear before this committee so that this committee could find out if the organizations are still interested in moving forward with a relationship. He further said that after they appear before this committee, the committee would then move forward and invite them to submit a formal application. Mr. Leonhardt asked if this committee is basically indicating, that because of the new ordinance that this committee created, it is necessary to re-establish the relationship under the new ordinance and an*

application is needed to continue the relationship. Ald. Davis replied in the affirmative.

Motion was made by Ald. Davis to abolish the sister city relationship with Queenstown, South Africa. Ms. Cubias Seconded. There were no objections.

Ald. Davis asked if there has been any further contact with Mr. Frinzi on Parma, Italy. Ms. MacDonald replied in the negative.

Motion was made by Ald. Davis to have letters sent to all current sister relationships except for Queenstown, South Africa, asking them to appear before this committee to discuss the new changes in the process on establishing a sister city relationship with the city of Milwaukee. Dr. Chen seconded. There were no objections.

Mr. Durtka asked what kind of relationship does Milwaukee have with Ningbo, China. Mr. Leonhardt replied that the resolution that was passed was for a friendly relationship only. Mr. Durtka asked if Ningbo China could eventually become a sister city. Ms. Cubias replied that China isn't interested at this time in having a formal sister city relationship with Milwaukee.

4. Discussion relative to formal application requests to all the current sister city relationships

Ms. Cubias asked if letters were sent to the three possible sister cities that were approved at the last Sister Cities Committee meeting, inviting them to submit a formal application. Ald. Davis replied in the affirmative.

Ms. MacDonald said that she received a call from Mr. Ryan Skaife for Morogoro, South Central Tanzania yesterday and he said that he is working on their application. She further advised the committee that she had sent letters to both Mr. Darshan Dhaliwal and Dr. Prem Sharma for Patiala, India and Dr. Sharma had contacted her and said that Mr. Dhaliwal will be out of the country for a month and that he himself was in the process of moving out of state. He said that they would work on the application as soon as Mr. Dhaliwal returned.

Ald. Davis asked Ms. MacDonald to contact Ald. Zielinski and advise him of the status of Patiala, India.

Ald. Davis asked if we received any completed applications yet. Ms. MacDonald replied in the negative.

Ald. Davis said that all future letters inviting cities to submit formal applications be sent certified mail so that we have record that the application was received by organization.

Ald. Davis asked Ms. MacDonald to contact the three Organizations that were invited to submit a formal application and find out if they receive the application and to let them know that the committee would like them to get those completed applications submitted. He further asked that a status report be given at the next meeting.

Dr. Chen asked if the committee doesn't receive a response to the letters within a certain amount of time; should the committee assume that they are no longer interested in a relationship? She then suggested that a time line be set for the submission of the application or have a set time during the year that this committee will except the applications. She further asked if they would need to make changes to the policy to reflect how this committee will handle such a situation.

*Ms. Cubias suggested that they give a 60 day deadline for applicants to submit their applications.*

*Ald. Davis agreed with Dr. Chen and Ms. Cubias suggestion that they set a time frame during the year to except applications.*

*Mr. Leonhardt said that he is not sure whether that should be an ordinance change or be adopted as part of this committee's rules. He than said that setting a time frame might be beyond the scope of the ordinance.*

*Mr. Durtka suggested that they accept applications any time throughout the year, but hear them only during a certain time of the year.*

*Mr. Leonhardt said that it would probably be a good idea if this committee establishes some formal rules and have them put into a formal draft, so that there is documentation of the rules. He also said that committee would be able to add to them at any time. Mr. Leonhardt advised the committee that a draft of rules could be prepared for review at the next meeting.*

*Motion was made by Ms. Cubias that they give a 60 day time line for applicants to submit their applications. There were no objections.*

5. Next meeting date and time

*Next meeting date: March 30, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.*

*Meeting adjourned: 9:40 A.M.*

*Terry J. MacDonald  
Staff Assistant*