

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE City of Milwaukee

2019 Annual Report

The attached report is submitted pursuant to s. 320-47 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.



SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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Purpose: (Per s. 320-47 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances)

The Sister Cities Committee is created to assist the City, through its Common Council, with the establishment and maintenance of sister city relationships in accordance with Sister Cities International regulations.

MEMBERS

Russell W. Stamper, II, Chair

(Chair of the Community and Economic Development Committee)

Oscar Tovar

(Representative of Mayor Tom Barrett)

Alexander Durtka, Jr.

(Representative of the International Institute of Wisconsin)

Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya

(Representative of the Health Commissioner)

Bruce Spann

(Public Member)

STAFF

Mr. Chris Lee, Staff Assistant

PREVIOUS MEMBER

Tiffany Barta

(Representative of the Health Commissioner)

Milwaukee Sister Cities Website

<http://city.milwaukee.gov/sistercities>

SISTER CITIES AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGES SUMMARY 2019

The City of Milwaukee currently has 7 (seven) active sister city relationships with signed agreements:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea
- Galway, Ireland
- Irpin, Ukraine
- Medan, Indonesia
- Tarime District, Tanzania
- Zadar, Croatia

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) sister city relationship terminated in 2019:

- uMhlathuze, South Africa

The City of Milwaukee had no new sister city relationship established with a signed agreement in 2019.

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) new sister city relationship established pending a signed agreement in 2019.

- Tema, Ghana

The City of Milwaukee had 2 (two) sister city relationships renewed in 2019:

- Galway, Ireland
- Medan, Indonesia

The City of Milwaukee had no expiring sister city relationship with a signed agreement in 2019.

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) sister city relationships without a local nonprofit organization sponsor in 2019:

- Bomet County, Kenya

The City of Milwaukee has no active or pending friendly exchange relationships.

Annual Reports from Local Sponsors of Sister City Relationships

2018 Annual Reports were submitted, received, and approved for the following sister city relationships:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Zadar, Croatia

All 2018 annual reports received from the committee are attached within CCFN 141899 for Bomet and CCFN 140088 for Zadar.

2019 Annual Reports were submitted, received, and approved for the following sister city relationships:

- Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea
- Irpin, Ukraine

All 2019 annual reports received from the committee are attached within CCFN 160733 for Daegu Metropolitan City and CCFN 171188 for Irpin.

No 2019 Annual Reports were submitted and received for the following sister city relationships:

- Tarime District, Tanzania
- Bomet County, Kenya (due 8/29)
- Zadar, Croatia (due 12/25)

No 2019 Annual Reports were due for the following sister city relationships:

- Galway, Ireland
- Medan, Indonesia

The tables below summarize the City's current active sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information.

Current Sister City Relationships							
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Signed Sister City Relationship Agreement	Relationship Expiration	Sister City Relationship Renewal Deadline
Bomet County, Kenya (2015 - Present)	VACANT	141899	7/21/2015	7/30/2015	11/23/2015	11/23/2020	5/23/2020
Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea	The Water Council	160733	3/28/2017	4/6/2017	9/20/2017	9/20/2022	3/20/2022
Galway, Ireland** (2002 - Present)	Irish Festivals, Inc.	181446	2/5/2019	2/15/2019	8/15/2008	5/23/2024	11/23/2023
Irpin, Ukraine (2018 - Present)	St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church	171188	12/19/2017	1/2/2018	3/15/2018	3/15/2023	10/15/2022
Medan, Indonesia (2014 - Present)	Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce Inc. (1/10/19)	190453	9/24/2019	10/4/2019	10/30/2014	10/30/2024	4/30/2024
Tarime District, Tanzania (2016 - present)	Mosorec International Foundation	160176	7/6/2016	7/14/2016	11/7/2016	11/7/2021	5/7/2021
Zadar, Croatia (2015 - Present)	Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee	140088	11/25/2014	11/25/2014	5/12/2015	5/12/2020	11/12/2019
*Sister city relationship renewed.							
**This relationship was established prior to the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.							

The tables below summarize the City's current pending sister city relationships, local sponsoring entities, and information.

Pending Sister City Relationships								
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Signed Sister City Relationship Agreement	Relationship Expiration	Sister City Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline
Tema, Ghana	Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc.	191027	11/5/2019	11/15/2019				
*Requires a signed sister city relationship agreement. A signing ceremony will be scheduled in the near future when both mayors from both cities are able to come together.								

The table below summarizes the City's terminated sister city relationships since the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.

Terminated Sister City Relationships*										
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Signed Sister City Relationship Agreement	Relationship Expiration	Sister City Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline	File Number Terminating Relationship	Effective Termination Date
Morogoro, Tanzania (2007 - 2012)	Hope in Tanzania Foundation	070043	5/8/2007	5/15/2007	8/3/2007	8/3/2012*	2/3/2012	6/14/2014	161199	4/6/2017
Carora, Venezuela* (2009 - Present)	The Peace Education Project of Peace Action Wisconsin	131429*	3/4/2014	3/7/2014	3/24/2009	3/8/2019	9/8/2018	4/6	160547	10/19/2016
uMhlathuze, South Africa* (2008 - Present)	VACANT	140008*	5/13/2014	5/22/2014	5/1/2008	5/23/2019	11/23/2018	6/21/2014	191028	11/15/2019
*Since the creation of Chapter 335 Sister Cities, which was adopted October 24, 2006 and became effective November 10, 2006.										

The table below summarizes the City's expired friendly exchange relationships since October 10, 2014 when Chapter 335 Sister Cities established that friendly exchange relationships shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution.

Expired Friendly Exchange Relationships							
Friendly Exchange City	Local Sponsoring Organization	File Number Establishing Relationship	Council Final Action	Mayor Signed Resolution	Relationship Expiration	Friendly Exchange Relationship Renewal Deadline	Annual Report Deadline
Ninbo, China (2005 - 2014)		050754	9/27/2005	10/6/2005	10/10/2014*		11/5
*Chapter 335 Sister Cities, on October 10, 2014, established that friendly exchange relationships shall expire after 5 years unless extended for another 5 years by council resolution. There was no resolution to extend the relationship.							

Accomplishments and Activities in 2019

Establishment of a New Sister City (Pending a Signed Agreement)

Tema, Ghana

Tema, Ghana became a new City of Milwaukee's sister city pending a signed agreement. The sister city relationship will become official when both mayors from the City of Milwaukee and the City of Tema are able to sign a sister city relationship agreement either. There is anticipation for an agreement signing ceremony to be held either in Milwaukee or Tema. Substitute resolution establishing a sister city relationship between the City of Milwaukee and Tema, Ghana (Common Council File Number 191027) was adopted by the Common Council and signed by Mayor Tom Barrett on November 5, 2019 and November 15, 2019 respectively. The Sister Cities Committee approved the application and recommended approval to establish a sister city relationship with the City of Tema at its September 26, 2019 meeting.

Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc., led by Esther and Martin Oduro, is the local nonprofit sponsoring organization in the City of Milwaukee.

The organization structure in the sister city is the Office of International Partnerships, a local government unit to the Mayor of Tema. The Office of International Partnerships has established other sister cities such as with Norfolk (Virginia), Columbia (Maryland), San Diego (California), and Greenwich (United Kingdom).

The relationship was initiated by the Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton. President Hamilton's visitation experiences to Tema resulted in his observance of many similarities and exchange opportunities between the cities. He engaged the Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc., and the association (with other collaborators) has acted as the local sponsor in Milwaukee to establish the relationship throughout the application process and continues to participate in ongoing activities.

Areas of mutual interest include trade, culture, nursing, education, and student exchange.

The sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana (once a signed agreement is achieved) will be for five years from the date of the signed agreement. An annual report regarding this sister city relationship will be due annually to the Sister Cities Committee.

Further details on the sister city relationship and activities between the City of Tema and the City of Milwaukee can be found within Common Council File Number 191027.

Renewal of Sister City Relationships

Galway, Ireland

The sister city relationship with the City of Galway, Ireland was renewed on February 15, 2019 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 181446. The Sister Cities Committee at its January 10, 2019 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Galway. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 181446 to renew the sister city relationship on February 5, 2019.

The sister city relationship with Galway was first established on January 7, 2002 when the original resolution CCFN 010680 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on August 15, 2008 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Pdraig Conneely of Galway.

The main activities of the relationship have been centered on culture, festivals, and the annual Irish Fest that has taken place in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee local sponsor to the relationship is Irish Festivals, Inc.

Medan, Indonesia

The sister city relationship with the City of Medan, Indonesia was renewed on October 4, 2019 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 190453. The Sister Cities Committee at its June 18, 2019 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Medan. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 190453 to renew the sister city relationship on September 24, 2019.

The sister city relationship with Medan was first established on October 30, 2014 when an official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Dzulmi Eldin of Medan.

Both cities share a common interest in education, health care, business, and culture. The Milwaukee local sponsor to the relationship is Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Termination of a Sister City Relationship

uMhlathuze, South Africa

The sister city relationship with the City of uMhlathuze, South Africa was terminated on November 15, 2019 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution terminating the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 191028 due to inactivity, lack of sponsorship, and lack of community support. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 26, 2019 meeting recommended to terminate the sister city relationship with uMhlathuze. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 191028 to terminate the sister city relationship on November 5, 2019.

The sister city relationship with uMhlathuze was first established on May 1, 2008 when the sister city agreement was signed at a signing ceremony at Milwaukee City Hall between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Councilor AZ Mngayi of uMhlahtuze. CCFN 071584 was the original resolution establishing the relationship. The relationship had expired May 23, 2019 and was not renewed.

Changes in Sister Cities Committee Membership

Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya joined the committee as a new member representative of the Health Commissioner and replaced previous member, Tiffany Barta, on June 18, 2019

Promotion of the Sister Cities Program and Sister City Relationships

The committee continued discussions and efforts to enhance or promote the City's sister cities program. Various recommendations and goals were considered, and the committee continues to be open to new ideas. Activities were held or were still being planned. Main goals of the committee continue to be promotion of sister city relationships, adding capacity via a new position or reorganization, requiring solid infrastructure for the establishment of new sister city relationships, establishing new sister city relationships, and maintaining existing sister city relationships. The third annual sister cities exhibit booth at the Holiday Folk Fair continues to be a major promotional activity. Under development is for a first meet-and-greet event to connect and network local sister city communities. Adding capacity to the City's sister city program may be more feasible through fundraising or have to come from outside sources. There may be collaborative opportunities with interest from the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium and Port Milwaukee.

Sister Cities Committee meetings held in 2019:

January 10, 2019
March 28, 2019
June 18, 2019
September 26, 2019
November 6, 2019

2019 Committee Meeting Highlights:

At the **January 10, 2019** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland with Irish Festivals, Inc. as the continuing local sponsor.
- Reviewed and approved a change of local sponsor for the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia with the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce as the new local sponsor.
- Was given sister city relationship status updates from clerk staff and updates on sister city activities from the local sponsors of the relationships with Tarime District (Tanzania), Bomet County (Kenya), and Irpin (Ukraine).
- Recapped the sister city booth exhibit participation for the 2018 Holiday Folk Fair and discussed ongoing coordination for a meet-and-greet event to connect the local sister city communities.
- Continued to discuss exploring possibilities to add staffing capacity to the sister cities program.
- Reviewed and approved the 2018 Sister Cities Committee annual report.

At the **March 28, 2019** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the 2019 annual report for the sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine.
- Reviewed and held the 2018 annual report for the sister city relationship with Zadar, Croatia for further information.
- Reviewed and approved the 2018 annual report for the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya.
- Was given a presentation from the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium on the

consortium being a resource to foster collaborations, potentially with the sister cities, to address health issues relevant to Milwaukee and the global community.

- Discussed ongoing coordination for a meet-and-greet event to connect local sister city communications.
- Discussed the next annual conference of Sister Cities International to be held in Houston, Texas from July 17-19, 2019.
- Continued to discuss exploring possibilities to add staffing capacity to the sister cities program, either through the City of Milwaukee budget process or from an outside funding source.

At the **June 18, 2019** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed a letter of intent and extended an application to Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. to apply for a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana.
- Reviewed and approved the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia with Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce as the continuing local sponsor.
- Reviewed and conditionally approved the 2018 annual report for the sister city relationship with Zadar, Croatia. The condition was a request for further information.
- Reviewed and approved the 2019 annual report for the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea.
- Was given an overview of Port Milwaukee and discussed port trade possibilities that could occur with the sister cities.
- Was given a status update on sister city relationships from clerk staff and discussed to seek outside interest for the expired relationship with uMhlathuze, South Africa prior to taking adverse action.
- Discussed ongoing coordination and getting buy-in from everyone for a meet-and-greet event to connect local sister city communications. Buy-in has yet to be obtained.
- Discussed the intention to participate with another sister cities booth exhibit for the 2019 Holiday Folk Fair.
- Was given an update of sister city activities from the local sponsor of the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania. Member Bruce Spann would be participating in an upcoming delegation trip to Tarime in December 2019.

- Approved member Al Durtka with the authority to cast ballots at the next annual conference of Sister Cities International to be held in Houston, Texas from July 17-19, 2019. Member Al Durtka and Bruce Spann would be attending the conference.

At the **September 26, 2019** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the application to establish a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana with Ghana-Milwaukee Association, Inc. as the local sponsor. The relationship would subsequently require Common Council adoption, mayoral signature, and a signed agreement.
- Held review of the annual reports for the sister city relationships with Bomet County (Kenya) and Tarime District (Tanzania) due to nonappearance and non-submittal of the reports.
- Moved termination of the sister city relationship with uMhlathuze, South Africa due to inactivity, lack of local sponsorship, and lack of local community support. The termination would subsequently require Common Council adoption and mayoral signature.
- Discussed that adding staffing capacity to the sister cities program may have to come from fundraising efforts or from outside the City.
- Discussed ongoing coordination and getting buy-in from everyone for a meet-and-greet event to connect local sister city communications. Buy-in has yet to be obtained.
- Discussed again the intention to participate with another sister cities booth exhibit for the 2019 Holiday Folk Fair. Coordination for the exhibit to occur outside of meetings.
- Was given an update of sister city activities from the local sponsors of the sister city relationships with Irpin (Ukraine) and Galway (Ireland). Gifts from Irpin were given to the committee. A status update on sister city relationships was also given from clerk staff.
- Discussed interest from an audience member to establish either a sister city relationship or friendly relations relationship with a city in Quebec.

At the **November 6, 2019** meeting, the committee:

- Discussed final plans on exhibiting a sister cities booth at the upcoming Holiday Folk Fair.

- Discussed holding a meet-and-greet event for the local sister city communities in May 2020 with food, entertainment, and beverage.
- Held review of the annual reports a second time for the sister city relationships with Bomet County (Kenya) and Tarime District (Tanzania) due to nonappearance and non-submittal of the reports.
- Was given an update of sister city activities from the local sponsors of the sister city relationships with Medan (Indonesia) and Zadar (Croatia). There was leadership transition occurring with the Milwaukee local sponsor for the Medan sister city relationship. There was intent to submit an application to renew the sister city relationship with Zadar, which was expiring. A status update on sister city relationships was also given from clerk staff.
- Discussed continuing committee efforts to promote the sister city relationships and advocated more for strong infrastructures and local community support when establishing sister city relationships.

Complete meeting minutes from 2019 are attached following this page.



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALD. RUSSELL W. STAMPER, II, CHAIR
Al Durtka, Tiffany Barta, Oscar Tovar, and Bruce Spann
Staff Assistant, Chris Lee, 286-2232, Fax: 286-3456,
clee@milwaukee.gov
Legislative Liaison, Aaron Cadle, 286-8666,
acadle@milwaukee.gov

Thursday, January 10, 2019

10:00 AM

Room 301-B, 3rd Floor, City Hall

1. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Roll call.

Present 5 - Durtka, Tovar, Stamper, Barta, Spann

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from October 3, 2018.

Member Durtka moved approval, seconded by member Tovar, of the meeting minutes from October 3, 2018. There was no objection.

4. Review and approval of the renewal application for the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland (expires 5/23/19).

Individual appearing:

Paige Prichard, Irish Festivals Inc. & Celtic MKE

Ms. Prichard commented. The relationship is based on the yearly Irish festival that is held every year. This year's festival will showcase the City of Galway. Many delegates from Galway will be present. A goal is to bring in other United States Galway sister cities to attend the fest. The main contact in Galway for the relationship is Keith Finnegan of Galway Bay Radio. Last year's fest was attended by Mayor Tom Barrett and featured We Banjo 3, the official ambassadors to the world for Irish music and culture. There was also a Milwaukee City Hall reception last year with Galway delegates prior to the festival.

Members questioned sister city activities in other areas outside of the festival, the luncheon, Irish-based companies in Milwaukee, partnership with the Water Council, and the 2019 festival.

Ms. Prichard replied. There have been other activities. There is an Irish music archival program, which involves digitizing Irish sheet music in partnership with an Irish college, with possibilities for bringing in interns. The University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Celtic Studies program hosts an Irish immersion weekend, and Irish Fest has been supportive of the university's language program. There is interest to work

with the Galway's 2020 water preservation initiative, and she can check back with her board to possibly contact the Water Council to become involve with the water effort. The luncheon was centered on promoting tourism to Ireland and helped Irish Fest obtain a grant to assist Irish travelers to come to Milwaukee and other cities in the United States. There are a few Irish-based companies in Milwaukee that relate to construction and theater. The festival for 2019 will be from August 15th to the 18th.

Member Barta said that there were students from Alverno College that had gone to Galway and she is interested for more information about the internship possibilities within the relationship.

Member Oscar moved approval of the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland. There was no objection.

Ald. Stamper commented. An update on the festival should be given later this year to the committee. He is interested to set up a sister city booth at the festival and possibly have the committee meet Mr. Finnegan. With the committee's approval, the next step is for the matter to go before the City's Community and Economic Development Committee and Common Council for review and approval via resolution.

5. Review and approval of a change of local sponsorship for the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia.

Individuals appearing:

*Ger Thao, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC)
Benevolentia Wandana*

Mr. Thao said that other representatives could not appear today and they would better provide information regarding the change of local sponsor.

Ms. Wandana said that she and Khay Khong look forward to working with HWCC as the local sponsor going forward.

Member Tovar said that HWCC is a credible local nonprofit organization.

Member Dutka moved approval of the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce as the new local nonprofit sponsor for the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia. There was no objection.

6. Status update on sister city relationships.

Mr. Lee gave an update. The committee should consider and be mindful of sister city relationships expiring this year, lacking 2018 annual report submittals, or lacking a local nonprofit sponsor. Those expiring in 2019 are Galway, Ireland (5/23/19); Medan, Indonesia (10/30/19); and uMhlathuze, South Africa (5/23/19). Those without a local nonprofit sponsor prior to the meeting are Bomet County (Kenya), Medan (Indonesia), and uMhlathuze (South Africa). Those lacking 2018 annual reports are Bomet County (Kenya), uMhlathuze (South Africa), and Zadar (Croatia). Representatives are present to address the status of the relationship with Bomet County (Kenya). The representatives behind the Zadar (Croatia) relationship are not present and had communicated that their 2018 annual report would be forthcoming.

Individuals appearing:

Christine Thompson Mosore, Mosorec International Foundation

*Sam Belton, City Net Jazz Café
Benevolentia Wandana
Arlisia McHenry, City Clerk's Office*

Ms. Thompson Mosore gave an update on the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania. A main activity of the relationship has been installing a water well at the school in the township of Tarime. She has met representatives of charitable organizations that aid with water projects in Africa, such as Waterboys and Hoops2o. She has made an application to Waterboys for funding. There was a recent delegation trip to Tanzania in December last year. Member Spann, Mr. Belton, herself, sorority members, and other community members were part of the delegation trip. A purpose of the trip was to carry out the program Hope, Food, and Education. Various supplies and items were donated to over 300 children and community people in Tarime including soccer balls, clothing, bottled water, and a Christmas holiday meal. There was a holiday celebration at the school in Tarime that featured a cultural performance and a rap by Mr. Belton. Many Tarime youths were engaged as interpreters. The delegation visited various places, such as the national cultural museum and the Serengeti, the local sponsor in Tarime, government officials, a coffee farm, and crossed over to Kenya. The delegation was mentioned in the Tanzanian Daily News. The next trip to Tanzania is June 2019, and a goal is to sponsor young people to go.

Member Spann commented. Waterboys has focused on Tanzania and provided 48 wells there. NFL Philadelphia Eagles player Chris Long founded Waterboys. NBA Milwaukee Bucks player Malcolm Brogdon also has helped established Hoops2o as a subsidiary charitable organization under Waterboys. An answer is expected soon on the application made to Waterboys. He and others are interested in joining Mr. Long on a trip to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in the near future, and the committee is invited. The committee is invited to offer support to the foundation to seek assistance for the water well.

Ald. Stamper said for staff to prepare a letter from the committee in support of the Tarime water well project that was proposed to Waterboys and Hoops2o, and perhaps the Common Council president can also provide a letter of support.

Mr. Belton commented. He is involved in the coffee industry, is working with the coffee farmers in Tanzania, has imported coffee from there, has a local shop at 306 E. Wisconsin Avenue, and is raising funds for the school in Tarime. The YMCA and Boys and Girls Club are possible ways to involve youths as part of the relationship, and he has done training for youths at these organizations.

Ms. McHenry said that the Milwaukee Youth Council can be a possible source of involvement as part of the relationship.

Members questioned about showing support and bringing mutual exchange to Milwaukee.

Ms. Thompson Mosore responded. There is difficulty for Tanzanians to acquire VISAs to come to the United States. Perhaps creating and enhancing a school exchange program is a way to legitimize and make travel to the United States easier.

Ms. Wandana concurred that many countries have the VISA issue and that written letters of support from governments, government officials, or the committee can make individuals obtain VISAs easier to Milwaukee.

Individuals appearing:

*Dr. Alice Kones
David Mugun
Samuel Jackoyo, Kenyans in Milwaukee*

Dr. Kones, Mr. Mugun, and Mr. Jackoyo gave an update on the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya. The loss of the previous local nonprofit sponsor Pan-African Community Association (PACA) and the political changes in Bomet County have caused great difficulty to progress the relationship and generate an annual report. The relationship has to basically start over to create new relationships with the new governor in Bomet County and to replicate the efforts that were done within PACA. Through collaboration with the Rotary Club in Illinois, a water well was drilled in the township of Bomet but still needs resources to test and filter the water accordingly. The well water is not sanitary and drinkable. There was the distribution of 300 pads to school girls in Bomet. There are possibilities to import avocados from Bomet farms. A Marquette University student did travel to experience Bomet during a trip, and a goal is to expand or create student exchange with support between the cities. Kenyans in Milwaukee is a volunteer group behind the relationship, has yet to attain nonprofit status, and is working towards acquiring nonprofit status. The VISA issue also applies to Bomet citizens traveling to the United States. They will continue to find a solution to acquire a local nonprofit sponsor.

Member Spann said that he can forward information regarding resources for the water well, such as Engineers of Our Borders and Waterboys.

Individuals appearing:

*Joseph Spolowicz, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church
Boris Nayflish, Griffon Brands, Inc.*

Mr. Spolowicz and Nayflish gave an update on the sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine. The biggest activity thus far was a Ukrainian Independence Day celebration concert event last August at Alverno College. The event had about 100 attendees, had a performance by an Irpin singer, was well received, helped fundraise for church repairs, and celebrated culture. The church has hosted Irpin delegates, officials, and a student. Anastasiia Popsui is now the acting mayor of Irpin in place of Mayor Volodymyr Karpliuk, who had resigned. A delegation of journalists from the City of Kiev also came to Milwaukee in November. There was a recent delegation trip to Irpin. Although Mayor Tom Barrett could not go, a Milwaukee city flag was given to present to the City of Irpin. Another delegation trip to Irpin is planned for this June. There are goals for tangible economic growth and student exchanges between the two cities.

7. Discussion on sister city related events or activities.

a. 2018 Holiday Folk Fair recap (11/16 to 11/18/18)

Individual appearing:

Arlisia McHenry, City Clerk's Office

Member Durtka commented. Last year's event was the 75th anniversary. Over time he has seen transitions in cultures and participants at the event. There are ongoing efforts to bring new communities to participate in the event and make connections. The VISA travel issue has played a role in preventing some culture communities to participate. He recently took a group of performers to Japan.

Ms. McHenry commented. The booth exhibit was successful again, better, told a story to visitors, and had an engaging photo cutout board. There were display materials of sister cities, especially those of Irpin (Ukraine). Student day was great. There was a stamp this year to stamp student passports. Volunteers included committee members, City staff, local sister city representatives, and the Youth Council. More local sponsor organizations should be involved and contribute more to display materials for this year's booth at the fair.

b. Meet and Greet

Individuals appearing:

Arlisia McHenry, City Clerk's Office

Paige Prichard, Irish Festivals Inc. & Celtic MKE

Christine Thompson Mosore, Mosorec International Foundation

Benevolentia Wandana

Members and participants discussed that the event should be pushed back to February 28th with doors open at 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Celtic MKE center in Wauwatosa, have a potluck with food from each sister city, be an open house, have different music from the sister cities, have alcohol if possible, and hold possible booth exhibits.

Ms. Prichard and Ald. Stamper said that they can look into acquiring the necessary licenses, if any, to hold the event.

Member Durtka said that activities should be limited for this first event to be effective and that activities can expand for future events.

Ald. Stamper said that there should be a balance of the event to be a small gathering for committee members, all local sponsor representatives and their communities, and as well as for having selected guests for networking.

c. Other

There was no other discussion.

8. Discussion on new job position and study.

Ald. Stamper commented. The committee was given an initial study of a City position by the Dept. of Employee Relations in past meetings. He will continue to look into possibilities and will follow-up with the committee on developing a position within the City, outside the City, or encompassing a collaboration between the City and an outside source.

9. Review and approval of 2018 Sister City Committee Annual Report.

Mr. Lee gave an overview. The report describes the activities of the committee, a summary of the committee meetings, a listing of current sister city relationships, status of relationships, and highlights of the committee for 2018.

Member Durtka moved approval, seconded by member Barta, of the 2018 Sister Cities Committee Annual Report. There was no objection.

10. Announcements or updates.

There were no announcements or updates.

11. Agenda items for the next meeting.

To be determined.

12. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined.

13. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALD. RUSSELL W. STAMPER, II, CHAIR
Al Durtka, Tiffany Barta, Oscar Tovar, and Bruce Spann
Staff Assistant, Chris Lee, 286-2232, Fax: 286-3456,
clee@milwaukee.gov
Legislative Liaison, Aaron Cadle, 286-8666,
acadle@milwaukee.gov

Thursday, March 28, 2019

10:00 AM

Room 301-B, Third Floor, City Hall

1. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Roll call.

*Present 3 - Stamper, Durtka, Spann
Excused 2 - Barta, Tovar*

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from January 10, 2019.

Member Durtka moved approval, seconded by member Spann, of the meeting minutes from January 10, 2019. There was no objection.

4. Review and approval of sister city relationship annual reports.

a. Irpin, Ukraine (due 2/1/19)

Individuals appearing:

*Joseph Spolowicz, St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church
Boris Nayflisch, Griffon Brands*

Mr. Spolowicz and Nayflisch gave an overview of the report and updates. Delegations from Irpin have traveled to Milwaukee a few times last year that included various Irpin officials and mayors. During those trips the delegations had visited many City sectors including educational institutions, healthcare, public works, fire, police, and library systems. Other activities have included a successful cultural event celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day last summer in Milwaukee at Alverno College with about 100 attendees, the donation of Ukrainian books to Milwaukee's Central Library, hosting of a Ukrainian student, hosting of Kiev journalists during last year's elections, participation in the sister city booth at last year's Holiday Folk Fair, Mr. Nayflisch's participation and presentation of a Milwaukee city flag to the City of Irpin as part of a city day celebration event in Irpin, and ongoing attendance of Sister Cities Committee meetings. There will be a delegation trip to Irpin this June or July. Irpin's city day event for this year will be June 21st.

Member Durtka said that there should be the same level of effort to send written

materials about Milwaukee to Irpin like how Ukrainian books were given to Milwaukee's libraries.

Mr. Spolowicz replied that they will look into the possibility of sending information about Milwaukee to Irpin.

Member Durtka moved approval of the 2019 annual report on the sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine. There was no objection.

b. Zadar Croatia (due 12/25/18)

Individual appearing:

Nevenka Bralic-Lutzow, Federation of Croatian Societies Inc. of Milwaukee

Ms. Bralic-Lutzow gave an overview of the report and updates. She is the new main contact for the federation. The relationship is still in the engagement process with interests in water, education, and cultural exchanges. Main activities have been local student musicians traveling to Zadar and Croatia to perform there over the years. Zadar is interested to send a future delegation to Milwaukee. The federation would like to include a sister cities booth at a couple of their upcoming events if possible, such as a Croatian fest celebration on July 20th in Franklin. She is a graduate of the School of Freshwater Sciences, has a chemist background, has experience testing water, studied the lead issue in Milwaukee, and is interested in a freshwater technology exchange between the two cities.

Ald. Stamper said that staff should be contacted on whether or not the sister city booths can be done.

Member Durtka said that the report was insufficient and lacked further information about activities, especially regarding freshwater exchange, between the two cities.

Member Durtka questioned a standard format for local organizations to submit their annual reports.

Mr. Lee commented. The committee had developed a standard annual report form with submittal requirements that is being used now for completion of annual reports. Organizations have submitted that form and their required additional information, either as a narrative or PowerPoint presentation, to the committee. There is no standard format for the additional information, and the organizations have the option to submit narratives, PowerPoint presentations, or a combination of both.

Ms. Bralic-Lutzow said that she can revisit with the federation to redo the annual report with further details.

Member Spann moved to hold the 2018 annual report for the sister city relationship with Zadar, Croatia. There was no objection.

c. Bomet County, Kenya (due 8/29/18)

Individual appearing:

Dr. Alice Kones

Dr. Kones gave a PowerPoint overview and updates. There are no local nonprofit sponsoring organizations on either side of the relationship currently. Efforts are being

made to acquire or formalize sponsorships, especially a local youth organization group. With the acquisition of the youth organization, the relationship will continue and focus on education, student exchange, mentorship programming, technology, and entrepreneurship. She recently took two students as part of an exchange program to Bomet and Kenya. There was a STEM scholarship program that helped sponsor and mentor students in Bomet. The biggest activity of the relationship thus far has been the water well project in Bomet. The well has been drilled but needs additional funds and resources to purify the chlorine contaminated water and to finish the well. The well has been capped off. The Rotary Club of Illinois helped with drilling the well but was not able to do the water purification and the rest of the project. Information on the remaining costs for the well can be shared to the committee. Bomet has much crops and produce available for Milwaukee to import.

Members and participants inquired about the relationship structure in Bomet, the location of the well, and crop produce opportunities in Bomet.

Dr. Kones replied. She recently has only worked directly with two leaders in Bomet and will work with them to establish organizations in Bomet to facilitate activities going forward. The well is on the school grounds in Bomet. Crops and produce opportunities from Bomet would include avocados, passion fruits, beans, green bananas, potatoes, cabbages, and spinach. All produce are organic without any pesticides.

Ald. Stamper said he will inquire about making connections to the crop and produce opportunities that Bomet has to offer.

Member Spann said that he can forward information about organizations that can assist with the water well project and water purification, such as YouFuel and Stone House Water Technologies.

Member Spann moved approval of the 2018 annual report for the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya. There was no objection.

d. uMhlathuze, South Africa (due 6/21/18)

Mr. Lee gave an update. The current relationship lacks a local nonprofit sponsor, 2018 annual report, and local main contact. The previous main contact, Joe Davis, did recently make contact that the South African consulate office would like to maintain this relationship or establish a new relationship with a different South African city. The relationship will be expiring May 13, 2019.

5. Presentation from the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium.

Individuals appearing:

Sarah Ehlinger Affotey, Milwaukee Global Health Consortium (MGHC)

Dr. Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Health Department Special Deputy Commissioner

Ms. Ehlinger Affotey said that many sister cities have the same goals as those of the consortium; the consortium can be an asset, resource, and partner to assist sister cities in improving global health; she is the executive director of the consortium; the consortium was formerly known as the Center of International Health; the consortium has been around since 1986; and the consortium is trying to brand Milwaukee as a global hub for public health.

Ms. Ehlinger Affotey and Dr. Bhattacharyya gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the consortium membership, leadership, representation, mission, vision, goals, importance, relevant programs to sister cities, history of trainings, and Health Department global health activities as follows:

The consortium is a unique nonprofit comprised of academia, government, health care, and nonprofit members. The leadership structure is comprised of a board of directors and a program advisory committee. The members of the consortium represent over 1 million people in populations surrounding southeastern Wisconsin base of each member institution, about 21 hospitals with services, over 92,000 employees, and over 46,000 students. The mission is to foster collaborations which address complex health issues relevant to Milwaukee and the global community. The vision is for the Milwaukee area to work together to find global health solutions and serving as a model for other communities. Goals include convening as a leading organization, leveraging funding, changing communities with evidence-based lessons, and transforming Milwaukee to be healthy and safe. The consortium has been important to bridge the global community to exchange shared health information, understand similar and different health crises, and to assist one another.

The consortium has had a history of trainings with past sister cities and other communities inclusive of the following aspects: emergency medical services in Poland from 1991-1995; agriculture, water, sanitation, UNICEF in Malawi/Zimbabwe; partnership with UMOS in Central America; primary care in the Republic of Georgia, pharmacy in Zambia since 2006; international food relief program through USAID; Tanzania nursing education project; international delegates; hosting of student scholars, and training or exchanges at the Milwaukee Health Department.

Through involvement with the consortium the Milwaukee Health Department has engaged in the following global health activities: learning opportunities for international students and visitors, participation in global health conversations around disease detection and laboratory surveillance planning, support disease surveillance and diagnostic testing, and global public health workforce development.

Member Durtka commented. Many sister city relationships with a health component lack progress in that area. Perhaps prior to establishing a sister city relationship based on health, there should be a requirement that an existing health partnership be established first.

Ms. Benevolentia Wandana appeared and commented. Her opinion is that an established health partnership would be the next level of a sister city relationship. There was talk of bringing an Indonesian health professional to Milwaukee to develop a program of training. There is interest to connect other Indonesian cities, aside from Medan, to the consortium.

Members inquired further about the Tanzanian nursing project, a listing of initiatives, and consortium meetings.

Ms. Ehlinger Affotey replied. The Tanzanian nurse training project was a two year project that just completed with a final report. A listing of consortium activities is listed in the consortium's annual report. There are set leadership meetings and frequent initiative meetings based on current projects.

6. Discussion on sister city related events, activities or updates.

a. *Meet and greet*

Mr. Lee and Chair Stamper said that staff will continue to coordinate a new meet and greet date that best garners attendance from everyone. Previous proposed dates did not garner adequate attendance.

b. *Sister Cities International annual conference*

Member Durtka said that the next annual conference will be in Houston, Texas from July 17 to 19, 2019 with a theme of "Cities Mean Business". Components of the conference will include a youth leadership summit and a look at the Port of Houston, which is one of the busiest seaports in the United States.

c. *Other*

There were no other updates.

7. Discussion on new job position or capacity.

Ald. Stamper said that he is hopeful to put in for next year's City budget a new position for the sister city program. Specifically, as the committee had discussed, the position would be for one year to initially envision sister city programming. Also, the position would have to determine funding for the position beyond its first year and the proper transition to work for and/or establish a nonprofit organization for the program.

8. Announcements.

Member Durtka announced that he was the recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun award this past February at a local ceremonial event for his involvement in promoting sister-state relations between Chiba, Japan and Wisconsin for the past 40 years. He is hopeful that a sister city relationship could happen between Japan and Milwaukee.

9. Agenda items for the next meeting.

To be determined.

Ald. Stamper said a possible agenda item could be a discussion with Port Milwaukee on import/export exchange opportunities.

10. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined for May or June.

11. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALD. RUSSELL W. STAMPER, II, CHAIR

Al Durtka, Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Oscar Tovar, and Bruce Spann

**Staff Assistant, Chris Lee, 286-2232, Fax: 286-3456,
clee@milwaukee.gov**

**Legislative Liaison, Aaron Cadle, 286-8666,
acadle@milwaukee.gov**

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

1:30 PM

Room 301-B, Third Floor, City Hall

1. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 1:35 p.m.

2. Roll call.

*Present 4 - Stamper, Tovar, Spann, Bhattacharyya
Excused 1 - Durtka*

Member Spann joined the committee at 2:58 p.m. during agenda item 9, c.

Member Bhattacharyya was welcomed as a new member and made brief comments. He is the Laboratory Director and Special Deputy Health Commissioner for the Milwaukee Health Department, has been involved in both national and international global health activities, and is a member of the Milwaukee Global Health Consortium.

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from March 28, 2019.

Member Tovar moved approval, seconded by member Bhattacharyya, of the meeting minutes from March 28, 2019 without objection.

4. Review of the letter of intent to establish a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana.

Individuals appearing:

James Starke, 1st Ald. Dist.

Dennis Annan, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Michael Anthony, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Esther Oduro, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Martin Oduro, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Mr. Starke commented. The interest to establish a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana originated with Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton. From recent travels to Tema, Pres. Hamilton had observed many similarities between the two cities, especially the cities' similar spirit and character. There are possible cultural and economic exchanges that can take place between the cities. Their office organized partners and individuals with connections to Ghana, and the Ghana

Milwaukee Association (GMA) is the local nonprofit organization that would sponsor the relationship. There will be an event to call for the Africa diaspora community to return to Ghana later this year.

Mr. Oduro, Annan, Anthony, and Mrs. Oduro commented. GMA does not have a permanent location yet but does meet regularly. There is a growing Ghanaian community in Milwaukee with about 250-300 persons. Many are higher education students that offer talent, entrepreneurship, and student exchange opportunities. Student exchanges are occurring informally, but there is interest to create a formal program. Many Ghanaian students voluntarily come to Milwaukee to attend Cardinal Stritch University, UW-Milwaukee, and MSOE. Mr. Annan is from Ghana and had attended Cardinal Stritch University. There are 7 Ghanaian students in Mr. Anthony's church. Mr. Oduro is informally aiding a student who is going to Ghana. Mutual exchange between the cities would focus on education, student, culture, and industry. There is a conceptual interest for mutual commerce exchange, and an objective would be to establish one. Cultural exchange would entail African products and African events. A recent fundraiser was done to help orphanages back in Ghana, and the hope is to do more fundraising events. A recognized sister city relationship between the two cities would make travel between the two cities easier. Ghana was the first black African nation to gain independence from colonial rule in 1957. Many prominent figures, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., from the United States were present for the independence in Ghana in 1957. Tema is by the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean and is used by other landlocked African countries for water transport.

Member Tovar moved approval, seconded by member Bhattacharyya, of the letter of intent and to extend to the Ghana Milwaukee Association an application to establish a sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Tema, Ghana. There was no objection.

Mr. Lee said that an application will be sent to GMA, GMA would have to submit and come back to the committee for review of the application, and the proposal would then require Common Council approval subsequently.

5. Review and approval of the sister city relationship renewal application for Medan, Indonesia.

Individuals appearing:

*May Yer Thao, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (HWCC)
Benevolentia Wandana*

Ms. Thao commented. She is the Executive Director of HWCC. HWCC provides financial resources and technical assistance to business and community development activities that improve economic opportunities in low-income and underserved communities. HWCC works with the whole Asian community collectively. HWCC is fully committed to continue its local sponsorship and the renewal of the sister city relationship. HWCC resources can be leveraged to help Asian communities and the workforce. HWCC works with the Hmong American Friendship Organization, which is primarily based on social service. The former main contact for the relationship, Khay Khong, left the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). They will try to regroup with WEDC.

Ms. Wandana commented. She is from Indonesia. The past local sponsor before HWCC was the Pan-African Community Association. The new objective for the relationship is to make it more romantic with a focus on mutual exchanges in food and beverage, travel and tourism, and healthcare. Local restaurants, like Bartolotta's, can

be leveraged to feature Indonesian food. Tourism can be promoted for both cities. The current nursing exchange effort with local hospitals in Milwaukee, via the efforts of Leni Siker, can continue to grow. Leni and she will go back to Indonesia separately soon. More updates on the relationship can be given after they come back from their trips. HWCC's willingness to be a part of the relationship is appreciated.

Member Bhattacharyya said that there should be further engagement with health care systems in Milwaukee from Indonesia and that there should be more healthcare talent brought to Milwaukee from Indonesia.

Member Tovar moved approval, seconded by member Bhattacharyya, of the renewal application from the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce to extend the sister city relationship between Milwaukee and Medan, Indonesia. There was no objection.

Mr. Lee said that the renewal would next require the Common Council adoption process via a resolution file.

Chair Stamper said that he would sponsor the resolution file.

6. Review and approval of annual reports.

Meeting recessed at 2:02 p.m. and reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

a. Zadar, Croatia

Individual appearing:

Nevenka Lutzow Bralic, Federation of Croatian Societies Inc. of Milwaukee

Ms. Lutzow Bralic gave a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation is a supplement to revise the 2018 annual report, as requested by the committee, and gives information on a freshwater initiative for the sister city relationship. The report previously was based on the Milwaukee Croatian Tamburitizens cultural activities. The relationship signing ceremony was May 11, 2015. She and the federation had participated in the booth exhibit at the Holiday Folk Fair. Opportunities like the fair can be used to educate people on the relationship and the water initiative. Overall the relationship is focused on water, social, cultural, economic, and recreational mutual exchange. Zadar, despite having marine water, has a national heritage of fresh water. There is a proposed water health pilot program, led by herself, to work with 8th grade middle schoolers in the 53206 zip code area along with participation from Zadar and the Global Water Center to analyze water with a prototype water particle sensor. She would need to inquire and obtain participation from Zadar. Outreach goals would be for students to draw pictures of water future, perform analysis, and travel to the respective countries. The pilot program is based on environmental science as a precautionary principle, is a basic step towards making a correlation, and is focused on creating citizen scientists. She had studied the lead water issue at the School of Fresh Water Sciences and had reached out to the Health Department for data in the past.

Members commented. The pilot program would require further details, planning specifics, support from the scientific community, expected outcomes, and scientific participation from Zadar. The Health Department can assist. Connection with Milwaukee Public Schools can be made, and perhaps a school can be adopted.

Boris Nayflisch, Griffon Brands, appeared and commented. The European Union has a clean water act with strict guidelines for drinking water. The EU also has resources

and funding that perhaps can be obtained for the pilot program.

Member Bhattacharyya moved conditional approval, seconded by member Tovar, of the revised 2018 annual report for the sister city relationship with Zadar, Croatia with the condition that further details be submitted on planning, scientific community support, expected outcomes, and participation from Zadar for the water health pilot program. There was no objection.

b. Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea

Individual appearing:

Elizabeth Hittman, Environmental Collaboration Office

Ms. Hittman commented on the 2019 annual report. She has an office at the Global Water Center, and the Water Council is the local nonprofit sponsor. Relationship activities with Daegu have been quiet for the year due to changes in the presidency in South Korea and the stagnant progress of creating water clusters and a water district in Daegu. Amy Jensen from the Water Council had traveled two years ago to Daegu to attend a water conference there. Mayor Tom Barrett is invited to attend Daegu's annual water event this September. Delegations from Daegu regularly come to the United States, and there is anticipation that a delegation would come to attend the Water Council's upcoming water summit.

Member Tovar moved approval of the 2019 annual report for the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea. There was no objection.

7. Discussion with Port Milwaukee on sister city opportunities and exchanges.

Individual appearing:

Adam Schlicht, Port MKE Director

Director Schlicht gave a PowerPoint overview presentation of the Port's origins, operations, economic impact, international work, and relationships as follows:

The three Milwaukee freshwater rivers are a significant part of the Port's identity. The Port was created in 1921 by the State covering about 470 acres of both recreational and commercial parcels. There is significant multi-modal transportation connectivity at the Port to freeways, the Mississippi River, other ports in the country, and Class I rail. About 40 to 50 international ships annually come to the Port via the Great Lakes. Economic impact in 2018 for the Port was over \$100 million in business revenue and over 1300 jobs. Out of the Port's world markets, 67% is with northern and western Europe, 19% is with Latin America, 12% is with North Africa and the Middle East, and 2% is with Asia. Northern and western Europe has the easiest connectivity. Western Europe trade is currently challenging due to a tariff. Overall Port tonnage from 2014 to 2018 was an average of 2.5 to 2.6 tons per year. The tonnage for 2018 was 2.4 tons, which was a slight dip from the average due to a mine labor dispute and shutdown. Port work is 75% domestic and 25% international.

The most important trade partner for the Port is Canada. The Port's other significant trade partners come primarily from western and northern European countries like Belgium, Ireland, Tunisia, and Turkey. Main imports to the Port are salt and steel. Main exports out of the Port are grain and mining. All ships must have recognized vessel flags as a safety standard. Many landlocked countries use the recognized vessel flagged ships of other port countries. The Port has existing relationships with

various countries, as referenced, and is always trying to pursue relationships with new countries. Antwerp, Belgium is also an important trade partner.

Members inquired about the Port having relationships with the City's existing sister cities, the inspection of products coming into the Port, and resources and connections to provide to the sister cities.

Director Schlicht replied. The Port has not had any trade relations with the sister cities besides Ireland. Opportunities are there to create trade relations. The current tariff is negatively impacting Milwaukee and United States corn export to Europe where corn export now comes out of Canada instead. The Port is trying to increase its marketing and promotion. The Port is working to better educate customers, the supply chain, and freight forwarders to use Milwaukee. Inspection of products, such as food, that come through the Port currently is done by a private company at the harbor. The Port does not have inspection oversight but can be involved with inspection if a new tenant comes into the harbor. The Port has a newly improved and designed website that best can serve as a resource for the sister cities.

8. Sister city status updates.

a. Local sponsoring organizations.

There was no update from local sponsoring organizations.

b. Committee staff

Mr. Lee gave an update on the status of sister city relationships. There are 8 sister city relationships with 7 active and 1 expired. The expired relationship is with uMhlathuze, South Africa having expired on May 23, 2019. The last local sponsor, Pan-African Community Association, no longer exists. The last advocate contact, Joe Davis, no longer has interest. Mr. Davis and committee members were previously asked to inquire and obtain outside interests, but no such interest has been found to date. Perhaps the termination of the relationship with uMhlathuze can be an item for the committee to consider in the near future. There will be forthcoming sister city annual reports, once submitted, for the committee to consider in the future.

Chair Stamper concurred and asks that everyone, in the meantime, continue to seek out outside interest for renewing the relationship with uMhlathuze.

c. Other

There was no other update.

9. Discussion on sister city related events.

a. Meet and Greet

Chair Stamper said that the meet and greet event is still under development with staff, the hope is that progress can be made in the near future when City events slow down, and the hope is to share more information at the next meeting.

b. Holiday Folk Fair

Chair Stamper said that the booth exhibit at the fair will occur again, staff will coordinate, and the hope is to share more information at the next meeting.

c. *Tarime, Tanzania December 2019 trip*

Individual appearing:

Christine Thompson Mosore, Mosorec International Foundation, Inc.

Member Spann joined the committee at 2:58 p.m.

Ms. Thompson Mosore gave an update. She recently went to Tarime back in March and April. She met with the new district commissioner and foundation team in Tarime. The cultural center in Tarime will need to be rebuilt. The foundation in Tarime acquired its first van and took many school children on rides, some for the first time in their lives. Underwears were donated to school girls and pens and some underwear were donated to school boys. On the water well in Tarime, which is halfway done, there is a tank that is being used to collect rain water for drinking. However, the rain water still needs purification. The goal is to acquire an affordable purification system with the help of Dr. Moe Mukiibi and Stonehouse Water Technologies. Training on the system can be given to Tarime locals for free, but travel costs for Dr. Mukiibi's team to go there would need to be covered. Member Spann has been involved with the well efforts. There has been a meeting with Waterboys, and Waterboys have not made a decision on whether to help fund the remainder of the well project. The next delegation trip to Tanzania, which would include Tarime and Dar es Salaam, is December 5 to 14, 2019. All members and City officials are invited. Tarime requests for a City official go to Tarime with official written recognition, such as a letter, which has yet to occur. Also of request is a meeting of officials with the Mayor Barrett present, which has yet to occur. The trip will be 8 full days. Flight connection would be through Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Cost per person would be \$2900, which would cover everything except VISAs and safari expenses.

Member Tovar said that City officials do not have the funding to make significant travel trips, and any kind of significant trip would have to be out-of-pocket.

Member Spann said that he is part of the December trip.

Chair Stamper commented. He will work with staff to generate a formal letter to recognize member Spann as a committee member from the City for purposes of the December trip. Perhaps Tarime officials can be invited to the committee's meet-and-greet event that it is preparing for.

d. *Other*

Mr. Lee said that the committee needs to authorize an individual on behalf of the City to cast ballets at the upcoming 2019 Sister Cities International annual conference in Houston, Texas from July 17-19, 2019. Member Durtka previously was given the authority in recent years.

Member Spann said that he will also attend the conference.

Member Tovar moved approval for member Durtka to have the authority to cast ballets at the upcoming 2019 Sister Cities International conference, as stated. There was no objection.

10. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

11. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALD. RUSSELL W. STAMPER, II, CHAIR

Al Durtka, Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Oscar Tovar, and Bruce Spann

**Staff Assistant, Chris Lee, 286-2232, Fax: 286-3456,
clee@milwaukee.gov**

**Legislative Liaison, Aaron Cadle, 286-8666,
acadle@milwaukee.gov**

Thursday, September 26, 2019

1:30 PM

Room 301-B, Third Floor, City Hall

1. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 1:34 p.m.

2. Roll call.

*Present 4 - Stamper, Durtka, Tovar, Spann
Excused 1 - Bhattacharyya*

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes.

Meeting minutes from June 18, 2019 was approved without objection.

4. Review and approval of the application to establish a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana.

Individuals appearing:

Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Common Council President

James Starke, 1st Aldermanic District

Martin Oduro, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Esther Oduro, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Dennis Annan, Ghana Milwaukee Association

Pastor Ebenezer, Africans in Milwaukee Association

Almarie Acosta-Cepeda, International Institute of Wisconsin Intern

Pres. Hamilton said that he had visited Tema, there are potential opportunities for mutual benefit between the two cities, the two cities are similar to each other being both industrial cities, there is a prominent Ghanaian community in Milwaukee in support, he initiated the proposal for a sister city relationship, Tema is excited to establish a relationship, timing is important, Ghana is an emerging nation, and his name Ashanti is a main tribe in Ghana.

Mr. Oduro, Annan, and Starke gave a PowerPoint presentation.

The Ghanaian flag components of red, gold, green, and black star represent the blood of the people, gold as a rich resource in the nation, the nation's abundance forestry,

and the people of the nation that fought for independence. Ghana is about the size of the state of Oregon with 25 million people and is located by the Gulf of Guinea and the South Atlantic Ocean. Tema is about half the size of Milwaukee with about 300,000 people, is the busiest and one of the best performing industrial port city for the nation and other landlocked neighboring African nations, considered the heart of development for the nation and center of the world, plays a significant role in import and export trade, and brings much revenue for the nation. Tema and Ghana offers much raw materials and agricultural products for export. Cocoa, coffee, oil, gold, tuna, and diamonds are examples.

The government structure for Ghana and Tema is similar to the United States with democratic 4-year election cycles, Tema Metro Assembly as an equivalent to the Milwaukee Common Council, and a mayor. The main organization to manage the relationship in Tema would be the International Partnership division of Tema's government. The division has existing sister city relationships with other U.S. cities like Norfolk (Virginia) and San Diego (California), has experience to support a relationship with Milwaukee, and has the infrastructure for continuity.

Main exchange opportunities and interests for Tema include acquiring technological and automation advancement knowledge for its port that is being updated, motorcycles, beer products, city planning and development knowledge, tech products, clean water knowledge, and public infrastructure knowledge. Exchange opportunities for Milwaukee from Tema include raw materials, agricultural products, and cultural activities.

Mutual exchange opportunities between both cities include ongoing higher education student program exchanges between universities, nursing exchange such as the successful program occurring in Norfolk (Virginia), and medical practice exchange for hospitals and doctors.

Ghana is in the mist of celebrating its 400th anniversary year of independence and their Year of Return calling for Ghanaians worldwide to return to Ghana to celebrate. The local Ghanaian community through various groups will continue to hold events and can participate in City sponsored events or events sponsored by other organizations, such as African World Fest and Black Arts Fest, to support the relationship and African culture as a whole. Current activities include travel assistance from and to Tema and local dance performances.

Members questioned GMA's membership requirements based on ethnicity and Tema's other sister relationships.

Mr. Oduro replied. Any person can be a GMA member regardless of ethnicity, their by-laws erroneously stated that members must be Ghanaian, Tema's sister city relationship with Norfolk has a successful nursing program exchange, and they will continue to acquire information about those other relationships to learn, incorporate successes, and expand from them.

Member Spann said that he will likely travel to Ghana and Tema soon, would like to meet with the relevant contacts there who are involved with the proposed relationship, and that there is opportunity to import tea and coffee from Tema to Milwaukee local businesses.

Member Durtka said that he would like for the local Ghanaian community to focus on uniquely celebrating Ghanaian culture as opposed to African culture as a whole going

forward, such as at the upcoming Holiday International Folk Fair.

Member Durtka moved approval of the application to establish a sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana, as submitted by the Ghana Milwaukee Association. There was no objection.

Mr. Lee said that the next step would be for a resolution file on the matter to go through the City's Community and Economic Development Committee and Common Council approval process.

5. Review and approval of annual reports.

a. Tarime District, Tanzania

Mr. Lee said that the 2019 annual report was due August 13th, no report was received, and the local sponsor representative could not attend today's meeting.

Member Tovar moved to hold to the call of the chair review of the 2019 annual report for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania. There was no objection.

b. Bomet County, Kenya

Mr. Lee said that the 2019 annual report was due August 29th, no report was received, and the local sponsor representative could not attend today's meeting.

Member Tovar moved to hold to the call of the chair review of the 2019 annual report for the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya. There was no objection.

6. Review and approval of continuing or terminating the sister city relationship with uMhlathuze, South Africa.

Mr. Lee said that the sister city relationship has been inactive for some time, has no main local contact point person, has no local nonprofit sponsor, and had expired May 23, 2019.

Member Tovar moved termination, seconded by member Durtka, of the sister city relationship with uMhlathuze, South Africa. There was no objection.

Mr. Lee said that the next step is for a resolution file for termination of the relationship to go through the Community and Economic Development Committee and Common Council approval process.

7. Discussion on adding a position for the sister city program.

Ald. Stamper said that he would like to discuss with other alderpersons on adding resources or a new position to the sister cities program in the City's 2020 budget; however, due to the difficult budget, adding a new position or resources may not be feasible and the route of fundraising may have to be the pathway to add resources or capacity to the program.

8. Discussion on sister city related events.

a. Meet and greet

Ald. Stamper said that scheduling a date with buy-in from all participants has been challenging, and Arlisia will continue to plan the event.

Mr. Lee said that Arlisia could not attend today's meeting but wanted to convey the importance for her to work offline and acquire buy-in and participation from all sister city local sponsoring organizations in order to make this event possible and successful.

b. Holiday Folk Fair

Ald. Stamper said that past participation at the fair with a sister cities exhibit booth has been successful and that the City should continue to participate again at the upcoming fair.

Mr. Lee said that Arlisia could not attend today's meeting but wanted to convey the importance for her to work offline and acquire buy-in and participation from all sister city local sponsoring organizations in order to make the booth possible and successful again for this year.

c. Other

There was no other discussion.

9. Sister city status updates.

a. Local sponsoring organizations

Joseph Spolowicz, St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church, appeared and gave an update on sister city activities with Irpin, Ukraine. The City of Irpin recently invited Milwaukee City officials to their Day of Irpin event in Irpin from September 21-22, 2019. He and his sister recently traveled to Irpin to partake in that event and presented gifts from Milwaukee City Clerk's Office to Irpin city officials. He brought back gifts from the City of Irpin to the Sister Cities Committee on behalf of the City of Milwaukee. The gifts include a history book of Irpin, an ornament glass block, a cardholder, and commemorative stamps. He enjoyed the greenspace, environment, and family atmosphere of Irpin during his stay there. There has been frustration on the side of Irpin with the lack of direct involvement and delegation visit of Milwaukee city officials to Irpin despite delegation visits of Irpin officials to Milwaukee. They would like to see City of Milwaukee representation or assistance improve and increase for this relationship. He and his church cannot represent the City of Milwaukee in an official capacity without further City involvement and assistance, such as funding.

Ald. Stamper said that adding a dedicated new position to administer and manage the City's sister city program is crucial to better provide assistance to the sister cities and local sponsoring organizations.

Member Spann questioned the impact of the current Ukraine and United State relations given President Trump's current dilemma involving Ukraine.

Mr. Spolowicz replied. The discussion of adding capacity to the sister city program has not resulted in anything tangible for over a year now. The U.S. presidential issue involving Ukraine does not present any dangers between the countries. There is an active war between Russia and Eastern Ukraine. There is some transition in the

mayor of Irpin. The next major event in Irpin is their independence celebration.

Mike Mitchell and Molly Modlinski, Irish Festivals Inc. and CelticMKE, appeared and gave an update. Irish Fest was held recently with a delegation of officials from Galway, which occurs annually during the fest. There is the same sentiment to have Milwaukee city officials also travel to visit Galway. Their organization annually travels to Galway. They are still open to have their center be a venue for the meet and greet event.

b. Committee staff

Mr. Lee gave an update on the status of sister city relationships. Current sister city relationships (8) are Bomet County (Kenya), Daegu Metropolitan City (South Korea), Galway (Ireland), Irpin (Ukraine), Medan (Indonesia), Tarime District (Tanzania), uMhlathuze (South Africa), and Zadar (Croatia). The relationship with Medan was recently renewed for another 5 years. Anticipated for termination is the relationship with uMhlathuze. Anticipated as a new relationship is Tema, Ghana. 2019 annual reports have been or will be due for the relationships with Tarime District, Bomet County, and Zadar.

c. Other

Anne Leplae, Alliance Francaise, appeared and commented. Her organization is interested in proposing a friendly exchange relationship with the province of Quebec in Canada. There is a historical connection with the birth place of the first mayor of Milwaukee, Solomon Laurent Juneau, being that of Repentigny, Quebec.

Members and Mr. Lee said that a sister city or friendly exchange relationship would need to be a state-to-state or city-to-city relationship. Both parties to a relationship have to be equivalent to each other in jurisdiction, size, and government.

Ms. Leplae said that she will explore finding an appropriate city in Quebec to establish a friendly exchange relationship with.

10. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

11. Agenda items for the next meeting.

To be determined.

12. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined possibly for early November.

13. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section*

City Clerk's Office



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALD. RUSSELL W. STAMPER, II, CHAIR

**Al Durtka, Sanjib Bhattacharyya, Oscar Tovar, and Bruce
Spann**

**Staff Assistant, Chris Lee, 286-2232, Fax: 286-3456,
clee@milwaukee.gov**

**Legislative Liaison, Aaron Cadle, 286-8666,
acadle@milwaukee.gov**

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

10:00 AM

Room 301-A, Third Floor, City Hall

1. Call to order.

Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll call.

Member Tovar joined the committee at 10:20 a.m. during item 4, a.

Present 4 - Durtka, Tovar, Stamper, Bhattacharyya

Excused 1 - Spann

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes.

Meeting minutes from September 26, 2019 were approved without objection.

4. Discussion on sister city related events.

a. Holiday Folk Fair (11/22 - 11/24/19)

Member Durtka commented. The Holiday Folk Fair is celebrating its 76th anniversary. The theme for this year is to celebrate, promote, and preserve indigenous language and heritage, which are rapidly disappearing. Sign language and Braille are included. The fair will entail food, dance, music, bands, new demonstrations, special exhibits, entertainment, and a naturalization ceremony on Friday at 2:30 p.m. New aspects for this year include Turkish marbling (painting), Native American beading, traditional dress, Japanese komodo, Balinese dance, and foods identified by their original names. Volunteers will get buttons to tell what language(s) they can speak. There is still opportunity for participants. New cultural groups are always sought, such as the Hmong, Henga, and Ghanaian communities. The International Institute of Wisconsin is the organizer of the whole fair. Members are in possession of promotional materials for the fair, and electronic versions will be forwarded.

Member Bhattacharyya said that he is from India, speaks multiple dialects from India (i.e. Hindi and Bengali), is involved with a local Bengali social club that may be open to participate in the fair, and is familiar with the chess tournament that occurs at the fair.

Member Tovar joined the committee at 10:20 p.m.

Arlisia McHenry, City Clerk's Office, was present and commented. She is organizing a Sister Cities booth exhibit, with this year being the third occasion for the City. The booth format would be mostly the same. A new aspect will be to have flags representative of the sister cities to give away. Common Council staff, committee members, and the Youth Council have been notified to volunteer. Sister city local sponsors will soon be notified to volunteer and contribute display items. Some have already committed. More information will be sent out. There will be two stamps for the purpose of stamping student passports on education day of the fair, which is Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ger Thao, Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce, appeared and said that there will be participation from the Hmong community in the fair and he will explore contribution of display materials concerning the sister city with Medan, Indonesia.

Nevenka Lutzow Bralic, Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc., appeared and commented. The sister city with Zadar, Croatia will have its own exhibit booth; however, she will also volunteer for the Milwaukee Sister Cities booth. Their booth will focus on science and culture. They are seeking proper contact information with Golda Meir School regarding their water research project.

Chair Stamper said that there should be a press release done regarding the Holiday Folk Fair and sister cities exhibit booth.

b. Meet and greet

Ms. McHenry commented. The plan is to hold the event next May after City elections. The venue space sought is the Irish Center in Wauwatosa. Initial ideas include potluck food, cultural music, and information booths from the respective local sister city sponsors. The event can also include a disc jockey, beer, wine, and a video about the sister cities. This first event should be closed to committee members and the sister city local communities. Subsequent events can expand to other people.

Chair Stamper commented. Everyone should abide by the event date that is set by Ms. McHenry. The purpose of the event is for an intimate gathering of the sister city local communities to network and acquire familiarity with one another. The leaders of the sister city local communities should determine who to invite from their communities to the event, and advance notice of those attendees should be given so that proper preparation can occur to accommodate those attendees.

Ms. Lutzow Bralic provided a disc jockey recommendation.

c. Other

Member Durtka said that there should be more awareness of other peer cities that have the same sister city relationships that Milwaukee has.

Member Bhattacharyya said that there should be more commingling among all sister city communities.

5. Review and approval of annual reports.

- a. *Tarime District, Tanzania (due 8/29/19)*
- b. *Bomet County, Kenya (due 8/13/19)*

Mr. Lee said that no written annual reports for 2019 have been received for these two sister city relationships from the local sponsors, that no one from the local sponsorships could appear today, and that review of these reports were held once already.

Chair Stamper said to hold review of these reports one more time.

Member Tovar moved to hold items 4, a. and 4, b. to the call of the chair. Seconded by member Durtka. There was no objection.

6. Sister city status updates or announcements.

a. Local sponsoring organizations

Mr. Thao said that with regards to the sister city relationship with Medan (Indonesia), the Hmong Chamber is trying to rebuild the relationship and seek new local community leaders. There was a transition in local community leaders. The previous leaders have all departed.

Chair Stamper said that an update should be given at the next meeting on the leadership transition.

Ms. Lutzow Bralic said that they will soon submit an application to renew the sister city relationship with Zadar (Croatia), which is expiring soon.

b. Committee staff

Mr. Lee gave a status update. The Common Council recently approved the termination of the sister city relationship with uMhlathuze, South Africa and the establishment of a new sister city relationship with Tema, Ghana. With that termination, the number of current relationships is at 7. With the new relationship, the number is back at 8. Two relationships have expirations next year - Bomet County (Kenya) in November and Zadar (Croatia) in May. Annual reports for 2019 are still due for the relationships with Bomet County, Tarime District (Tanzania), and Zadar.

Member Bhattacharyya questioned promotion of sister city relationships.

Chair Stamper said that the committee have advocated for a dedicated position to do programming and provide support to the local sister city relationships. A job description is complete, but there has been difficulty to include any kind of City funding for the position. Funding may have to come via the route of fundraising and outside sources. Meanwhile, the committee is open to ideas and has tried to promote the relationships however it can, such as doing a sister cities booth exhibit at the Holiday Folk Fair. There has been conversation with Port Milwaukee to explore exchange opportunities with the sister cities.

Member Durtka added remarks. A long standing frustration has been the termination or disappearance of sister city relationships due to the lack of strong infrastructure and local sponsorship of those relationships. The committee should be more deliberate going forward that a proposed sister city relationship have strong infrastructure and local community support prior to being established.

c. Other

There was no other discussion.

7. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined possibly in January 2020.

8. Agenda items for the next meeting.

To be determined.

9. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

*Chris Lee, Staff Assistant
Council Records Section
City Clerk's Office*