



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALDERMAN JOE DAVIS, SR., CHAIR
Daisy Cubias, Al Durtka, Charles Vang and Kathy Blair

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Wednesday, April 2, 2008

11:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

Meeting convened: 11:04 P.M.

1. Roll call

Present 4 - Blair RN, Davis, Durtka, Vang

Excused 1 - Cubias

Also present: Ronald Leonhardt-City Clerk, Amy Hefter-Legislation Reference Bureau and Brenda Wood-Legislative Coordinator-Senior-City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of the minutes of the March 24, 2008 meeting

Mr. Durtka moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Vang seconded. There were no objections.

3. Review and approval of applications

Ald. Davis said there is one application that will be reviewed today and that is Manisa, Turkey's (Common Council File #071506). He said that application was held at the last Sister Cities Committee meeting, because there were concerns by some of the committee members regarding the connection between the Esperanza Unida, Inc. and the local Turkish community.

Ald. Davis asked the representative for Manisa, Turkey to come forward to give a brief overview.

Ald. Witkowiak, Mr. Robert Miranda, Executive Director for Esperanza Unida, Inc. and Dr. Fethullah Canpolat, the Program Director for Esperanza Unida, Inc. appeared.

Mr. Miranda said that Esperanza Unida has been working closely with the local Turkish community for the past three years. He explained that Esperanza Unida, Inc. works to build relationships with all immigrants and provides job training and placement.

Mr. Miranda then gave an overview of Esperanza's relationship with the local Turkish community and what its intention are for this sister city relationship.

Mr. Witkowiak said he supports this relationship between Manisa, Turkey and the City of Milwaukee 100%.

Dr. Canpolat said that he is originally from Turkey and has lived in the USA since 1966. He explained his connection to and how he became involved with Esperanza

Unida.

Dr. Canpolat said that the relationship with Manisa, Turkey will not only be a social relationship, but a business relationship as well.

Dr. Canpolat said that he is planning to visit Turkey in the near future along with Ald. Witkowiak and Mr. Miranda and they will be working to develop business connections.

Ald. Davis said that Dr. Canpolat brought some additional guests with him and asked him to introduce them. Dr. Canpolat said all of these people that came with him are members of the Turkish cultural who meet weekly on the near south side of Milwaukee.

Ald. Witkowiak said that before he became associated with this group and involved with this idea of a sister city relationship with Turkey, he traveled to Turkey twice and said that the Turkish communities are looking for products and business connections with western countries.

Ald. Davis said that the cultural and economic exchanges are an important part of a sister city relationship, but the diplomacy between the local governments in the two countries is also important.

Ald. Davis said that the local government input on a sister city relationship shows that the relationship will not be one that would exploit one another.

A motion was made by Mr. Durtka and Mr. Vang seconded, to approve the Manisa, Turkey application and to forward it on to the Community and Economic Development Committee for its consideration. There were no objections.

Meeting adjourned: 11:22 A.M.

Terry J. MacDonald
Staff Assistant