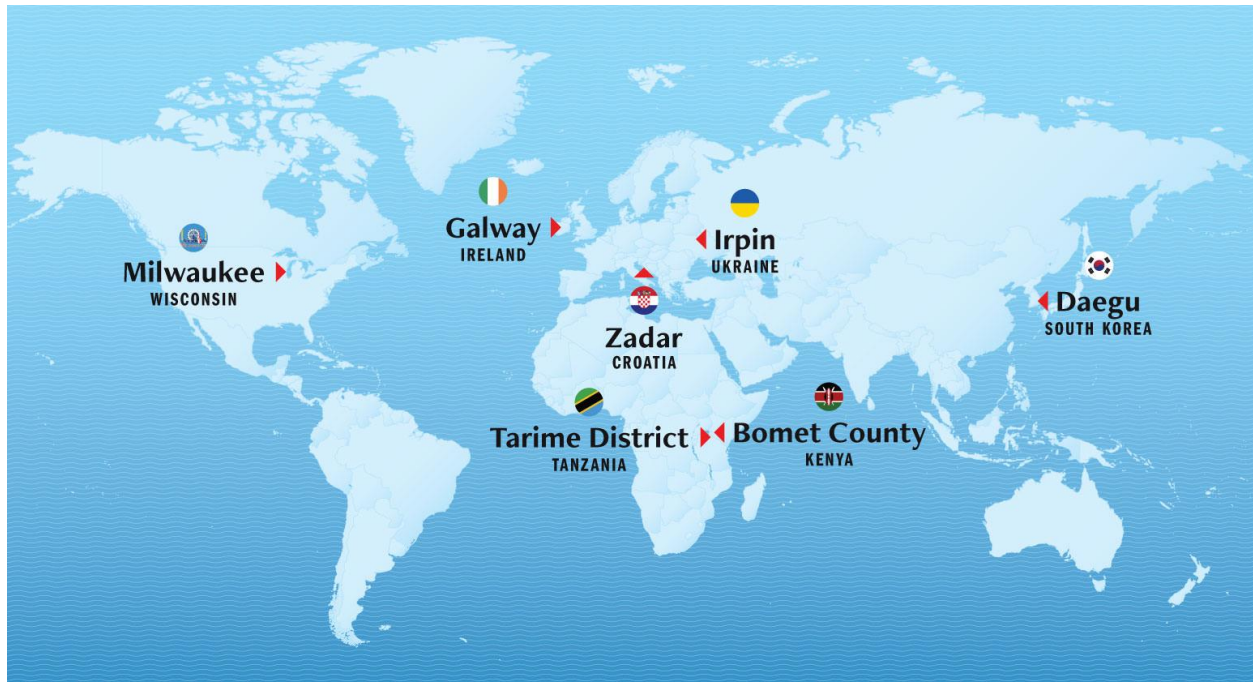


SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

City of Milwaukee

2021 Annual Report

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



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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

Khalif J. Rainey, 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

Luke Knapp, Legislative Reference Bureau

Milwaukee Sister Cities Website

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

SISTER CITIES AND FRIENDLY EXCHANGES SUMMARY 2021

The City of Milwaukee had 6 (six) active sister city relationships with signed agreements:

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

The City of Milwaukee had no new sister city relationship established with a signed agreement in 2021.

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) new sister city relationship pending a signed agreement in 2021.

- Tema, Ghana

The City of Milwaukee had 2 (two) sister city relationships renewed in 2021:

- Bomet County, Kenya
- Tarime District, Tanzania

The City of Milwaukee had 1 (one) sister city relationship that was terminated in 2021:

- Medan, Indonesia

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

Annual Reports from Local Sponsors of Sister City Relationships

2021 Annual Reports were submitted and received for the following sister city relationships:

- Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea
- Galway, Ireland
- Irpin, Ukraine
- Tarime District, Tanzania

All annual reports were approved by the Sister Cities Committee except for the report for Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea. The annual reports are contained within CCFN 160733 for Daegu Metropolitan City, CCFN 181446 for Galway, CCFN 171188 for Irpin, and CCFN 210902 for Tarime District respectively.

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

Current Sister City Relationships									
Sister City	Local Sponsoring Organization	Local NGO Main Contact	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
Bomet County, Kenya	Milwaukee African Women's Association	Reine-Marie Assana	201104	10/12/2021	10/12/2021	11/23/2015	11/23/2025	5/23/2024	11/11
		Alice Kones, David Mugun							
Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea	The Water Council	Elizabeth Hittman	160733	3/28/2017	4/6/2017	9/20/2017	9/20/2022	3/20/2022	5/6
Galway, Ireland**	Irish Festivals, Inc.	Mike Mitchell	181446	2/5/2019	2/15/2019	8/15/2008	5/23/2024	11/23/2023	3/16
		Molly Modlinski							
Irpin, Ukraine	St. Michael's Ukrainian Catholic Church	Joseph Spolowicz	171188	12/19/2017	1/2/2018	3/15/2018	3/15/2023	10/15/2022	2/1
Tarime District, Tanzania	Mosorec International Foundation	Christine Thompson-Mosore	210902	11/2/2021	11/11/2021	11/7/2016	11/7/2026	5/7/2025	12/11
Zadar, Croatia	Federation of Croatian Societies, Inc. of Milwaukee	Nevenka Bralic	201103	12/15/2020	12/28/2020	5/12/2015	5/12/2025	11/12/2024	1/27

*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 summarizes the City's current pending new 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 - 2016)	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
Medan, Indonesia (2014 - 2021)	VACANT	190453	9/24/2019	10/4/2019	10/30/2014	10/30/2024	4/30/2024	11/3/2019	210069	6/3/2021
uMhlathuze, South Africa* (2008 - 2019)	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
<p>*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.</p>							

Accomplishments and Activities in 2021

Renewal of Sister City Relationships

Bomet County, Kenya

The sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya was renewed on October 12, 2021 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 201104. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 22, 2021 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Bomet County. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 201104 to renew the sister city relationship on October 12, 2021.

The sister city relationship with Bomet County was first established on July 30, 2015 when the original resolution CCFN 141899 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on November 23, 2015 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Governor H.E. Hon Isaac Ruto of Bomet County.

Both cities share a common interest in education, health care and business, and mutual understanding. Activities of the relationship thus far include students visiting Bomet, supply of materials to Bomet, and the drilling of a water well in Bomet. The relationship is newly sponsored by Milwaukee African Women's Association.

Tarime District, Tanzania

The sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania was renewed on November 11, 2021 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 210902. The Sister Cities Committee at its September 22, 2021 meeting recommended to renew the sister city relationship with Tarime District. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 210902 to renew the sister city relationship on November 2, 2021.

The sister city relationship with Tarime District was first established on July 14, 2016 when the original resolution CCFN 160176 was signed by the City of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. An official agreement for the sister city relationship was signed at Milwaukee City Hall on November 7, 2016 between Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Hon. Moses Matiko Misiwa of the District of Tarime.

Both cities share a common interest in education, health care, business, mutual understanding, and other areas. The relationship has been centered on the school in Tarime District and the supply of materials, education, water well, and delegation visits to Tarime District. There has been an exchange of culture between the cities and sex

trafficking programming in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee local sponsor to the relationship is the Mosorec International Foundation Inc.

Termination of a Sister City Relationship

Medan, Indonesia

The sister city relationship with the City of Medan, Indonesia was terminated on June 3, 2021 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution terminating the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 210069 due to inactivity, lack of sponsorship, and lack of community support. The Sister Cities Committee at its April 29, 2021 meeting recommended to terminate the sister city relationship with Medan. The Common Council adopted resolution CCFN 210069 to terminate the sister city relationship on May 25, 2021.

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. The sister city relationship was subsequently renewed on October 4, 2019 after Mayor Tom Barrett signed a resolution renewing the sister city relationship via Common Council File Number 190453.

Sister Cities Committee meetings held in 2021:

April 29, 2021
September 22, 2021
October 4, 2021

Meeting minutes are attached to the report.

Meeting materials pertaining to meetings and activities of the Sister Cities Committee can be found within Common Council File Number [201501](#).

2021 Committee Meeting Highlights:

At the **April 29, 2021** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the 2021 annual reports for the sister city relationships with Irpin, Ukraine and Galway, Ireland.
- Reviewed, tentatively approved, and held the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya for proper filing status of the local nonprofit sponsor.
- Reviewed and approved the termination of the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia due to the lack of local sponsorship, community support, and activity.
- Was given a presentation and held review of the proposal for a dedicated space at MacArthur Square for a Sister Cities memorial proffered by the Department of Public Works for further details.
- Reviewed and approved the 2020 Sister Cities Committee annual report.

At the **September 22, 2021** meeting, the committee:

- Reviewed and approved the renewal applications to extend the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya and Tarime District, Tanzania.
- Reviewed and approved the 2021 annual report for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania and held the 2021 annual report for the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea for further information.
- Discussed with the City Clerk on permitting non-City officials to represent the City via legislation for diplomatic purposes or making proclamations abroad in the absence of City officials traveling.

- Was given an update on the official termination of the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia and the continued delay of the sister city agreement signing with Tema, Ghana.
- Recapped the virtual Sister Cities International Annual Conference from July 15-16, 2021 that included four panel sessions, discussed the upcoming 2021 virtual Holiday Folk Fair for November 19-21, 2021, and proffered ideas for a meet-and-greet event, either small or large scale, perhaps one for 2022 if it was feasible.

At the **October 4, 2021** meeting, the committee:

- Discussed the lack of dedicated programming, personnel, activity, collaboration, and support for sister city programming and sister city relationships.
- Proffered recommendations to acquire dedicated short term and long term personnel for sister city programming to include staff within City government, outside non-governmental agency, or federal work study internship with a local university.
- Approved to pursue a City budget amendment in the amount up to \$20,000 for sister city activities, programming, and/or assistance; pursue an internship or federal work study opportunity with a local university, and engage VIST Milwaukee as a partner.



City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53202

Meeting Minutes

SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE

ALD. KHALIF J. RAINEY, 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, April 29, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual

This will be a virtual meeting conducted via GoToMeeting. Should you wish to join this meeting from your phone, tablet, or computer you may go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/508328597>. You can also dial in using your phone United States: +1 (872) 240-3311 and Access Code: 508-328-597.

1. Call to order.

Meeting convened on 10:01 a.m.

2. Roll call.

Present 4 - Durtka, Tovar, Rainey, Spann

Excused 1 - Bhattacharyya

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from November 23, 2020.

Meeting minutes from November 23, 2020 were approved without objection.

4. Review of annual reports.

A. Irpin, Ukraine (due 2/1)

*Appearing:
Boris Nayflish*

Mr. Lee said that the local NGO contact was unable to appear and present their annual report due to medical reasons, Mr. Nayflish was present, and Mr. Nayflish was part of the local team.

Mr. Nayflish commented on the annual report. The virus pandemic caused challenges and halted travel of Irpin officials coming to Milwaukee in 2020. Despite the pandemic there was connection made between UW-Milwaukee and Irpin universities on possible exchange in education and business. Also, there exists much interest from the

business community in Irpin to engage with Milwaukee. If travel restrictions would ease, activities and plans would pick up for 2021 and Irpin officials would resume coming to Milwaukee.

Member Durtka inquired about a MoU between the universities and said that such a MoU could serve as a good model for others.

Chair Rainey inquired about the business community in Irpin wanting engagement.

Mr. Nayflish replied that the MoU can be shared, the component of the university in Irpin engaged with the MoU dealt with housing, the business community in Irpin was the IT industry, the IT industry in Irpin was growing, and those companies could offer public infrastructure patents and technology that would be beneficial to Milwaukee.

Member Tovar moved approval of the 2021 annual report for the sister city relationship with Irpin, Ukraine. There was no objection.

B. Galway, Ireland (due 3/16)

Appearing:

Molly Modlinski, CelticMKe and Irish Fest

Ms. Modlinski commented on the annual report. The relationship is centered on Irish Fest each year and instruction on Galway music at their school. Much activities were derailed by the pandemic. Irish Fest and Galway music instruction for 2020 became virtual in nature. The virtual festival featured Galway natives and performances. There was no travel between the cities. Communication between the cities remained despite the pandemic. Galway's 2020 European City of Culture celebration was rescheduled to 2023, and they plan to go to Galway to be a cohost for that celebration.

Member Tovar inquired about Irish Fest for 2021.

Ms. Modlinski replied that Irish Fest for 2021 would be in-person from August 20 to 22 and that she was unsure what international travel would be like.

Member Durtka moved approval of the 2021 annual report for the sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland. There was no objection.

5. Review of the renewal of the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya.

Mr. Lee said that the committee had approved the renewal application at its last meeting contingent upon Mosore International Foundation (MIF) being the local nonprofit sponsor, MIF had withdrawn being a local sponsor, and the renewal was brought back to the committee for review and approval of a new local sponsor.

Appearing:

David Mugun

Dr. Alice Kones

Reine-Marie Assana, MILAWA

Mr. Murgor

Dr. Tomett

Yulita Mitei Cheruiyot

Mary Barougo

Mr. Mugun said that the new local sponsor would be the Milwaukee African Women's Association Inc. (MILAWA).

Ms. Assana said that she was the president of MILAWA, MILAWA was involved with providing sanitary pads to Bomet, and MILAWA has invested interest in the relationship.

Member Durtka inquired about the status of MILAWA as a nonprofit organization in Wisconsin.

Ms. Assana said that they were in the process of registering with the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institution to restore their status and registration and that changes in leadership recently caused oversight in the registration.

Mr. Murgor and Ms. Barougo added that Bomet welcomes Milwaukee to go to Bomet, Bomet is open to cooperation, and Bomet continues to want to establish a relationship with Milwaukee.

Member Durtka moved tentative approval of the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Bomet County (Kenya) with MILAWA as the local nonprofit sponsoring organization contingent upon MILAWA having proper filing status with Wisconsin and further moved to hold the renewal application for final approval at a subsequent meeting. There was no objection.

6. Review and approval terminating the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia.

Mr. Lee said that the Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce had withdrawn being the local sponsor to the relationship at the last committee meeting due to inactivity and the absence of contacts behind the relationship from both cities and that the committee wanted to entertain terminating the relationship should those issues remain.

Member Durtka and Spann said that the relationship was a classic example of one managed by individuals rather than an organization, that relationships would cease once those individuals were gone, and that going forward relationships need to be backed by viable organizations and not by individuals.

Member Durtka moved approval to terminate the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia. There was no objection.

Mr. Lee added that the termination would proceed to the City's Community and Economic Development Committee and Common Council for approval.

7. Presentation from the Dept. of Public Works regarding a Sister Cities memorial project.

Appearing:

Anthony Gayfield, Dept. of Public Works (DPW)

Mr. Gayfield commented. He is the Parking Services Supervisor in DPW. There were efforts to repurpose and activate a space in the MacArthur Square plaza into a Sister Cities memorial. The space had declined in use due to safety issues. The idea would be for the space to be a gathering place for local organizations and display the sister cities. Some funds have been put together. The project could be small or big depending on interest from the committee.

Member Tovar said the project would be great for exposure and that Mr. Gayfield had reached out to him.

Chair Rainey asked about the next steps.

Mr. Gayfield replied. They have a landscaper and were moving forward with making designs. He would have to reconnect with his cohort. Artists would be acquired to create pieces for the sister cities. He would have a formal presentation within 90 days.

Member Durtka said more information is needed and that the project concept should expand to be an international space with sister cities being a component of the space.

Member Tovar moved to hold review of the project for further presentation. There was no objection.

8. Review and approval of the 2020 Sister Cities Committee annual report.

Mr. Lee gave an overview. The annual report is required by City ordinance. The report contains information regarding the committee, the sister city relationships, and activities of the committee for 2020. By the end of 2020 there were six active sister city relationships (Daegu, Galway, Irpin, Medan, Tarime, Zadar). There was one new sister city relationship that was still pending a signed agreement (Tema). One relationship had expired and was still pending its renewal (Bomet). All annual reports from the relationships were submitted and approved by the committee. The committee held two meetings for 2020 and had welcomed Chair Rainey as its new chair.

Member Spann moved approval of the 2020 Sister Cities Committee annual report. There was no objection.

9. Updates or announcements.

A. Status of sister city relationships

Mr. Lee gave an update. The termination of the sister city relationship with Medan would bring the total of active relationships in good standing to 5 (Daegu Metropolitan City, Galway, Irpin, Tarime District, and Zadar). Pending relationships include the renewal of Bomet County (expired) and the new relationship with Tema, Ghana (pending sister city agreement signing ceremony). The sister city relationship with Tarime District (Tanzania) expires November 7, 2021, a renewal application to extend the relationship would be forthcoming in the near future if submitted, and renewal application information was sent to the local NGO.

B. Sister city related events

There was no discussion.

C. Other

There was no discussion.

10. Agenda items for the next meeting.

Member Spann said that he would like to see City officials travel to other sister city relationships (which was lacking) and inquired about non-City personnel representing the City, including himself.

Mr. Lee said that member Spann could represent himself as a member of the Sister Cities Committee if he travels, the City ordinances prohibit using City funds for sister city related travel, that the City ordinances would have to be changed to allow for using City funds for such travel, and that the City budget would have to allocate funds for such purposes.

Next agenda items to include review of renewal application for the sister city relationship with Bomet County (Kenya), review of DPW Sister Cities memorial project, possibly review of a renewal application for the sister city relationship with Tarime District (Tanzania), and discussion on the role of the City on sister city related travel.

11. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined.

12. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 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. KHALIF J. RAINEY, 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, September 22, 2021

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

This will be a virtual meeting conducted via GoToMeeting. Should you wish to join this meeting from your phone, tablet, or computer you may go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/877931373>. You can also dial in using your phone United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 and Access Code: 877-931-373.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Roll call.

Present 5 - Durtka, Tovar, Rainey, Spann, Bhattacharyya

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes from April 29, 2021.

The meeting minutes from April 19, 2021 were approved without objection.

4. Review and approval of sister city relationship renewal applications.

a. Bomet County, Kenya (exp. 11/23/20)

*Appearing:
David Mugun*

Mr. Lee said that the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Bomet County was held at the last meeting due to the local sponsoring organization, Milwaukee African Women's Association, not having proper status in Wisconsin. The organization has since then properly regain status and registration in Wisconsin.

Mr. Mugun said that there is desire to continue and build the relationship between the cities.

Member Durtka moved approval of the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Bomet County, Kenya. There was no objection.

b. Tarime District, Tanzania (exp. 11/7/21)

Appearing:

Christine Thompson Mosore, Mosorec International Foundation, Inc.

Ms. Thompson Mosore gave a presentation as follows:

Her foundation manages the relationship from both sides with offices in both cities. Her brother heads the chapter in Tarime. Activities for 2021 in Tarime have included providing education for girls, school supplies, electricity with a recently installed generator, musical instruments, musical training and activities, employment of youths and young adults via jobs and construction, providing girls and women with housing, fundraising to assist with medical expenses of a woman, and celebration of the Milwaukee Bucks. Still in the works were phase 3 for the generator, expansion of classrooms at the school, and the cultural center in Tarime. In Milwaukee activities have included an awareness event focused on fighting human trafficking and participation with the Sister Cities International African Region-Tanzania subcommittee. With the passing of President H.E. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, Tanzania elected its first woman president, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Member Bhattacharyya inquired about the local health system and pandemic support in Tarime.

Ms. Thompson Mosore replied. The government in Tarime and Tanzania are taking the same precautions against COVID-19, including vaccinating the people there. Her foundation has assisted with providing soap for hand washing, water, and funds to purchase masks and other supplies impacting over 600 students. There is collaboration with school leaders and the government in Tarime.

Member Spann moved approval of the renewal application to extend the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania. There was no objection.

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

a. Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea (exp. 5/6/21)

Appearing:

Elizabeth Hittman, Environmental Collaboration Office

Ms. Hittman gave an overview. The local sponsor was the Water Council. The relationship was built on collaboration and exchange on freshwater research, innovation, education, and business development. Both cities have strived to be water centric cities and have sent delegates to each other's water related conferences and summits in the past, especially prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has prevented travel to each other cities. The relationship was still being maintained. Daegu featured their sister cities on their website, and they featured Milwaukee as a water city in July. Milwaukee was home to the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Science and the Alliance for Water Stewardship. There was interest to continue the collaboration on water related business.

Member Durtka said that he was concerned with the lack of progress beyond attendance at conferences, that the relationship seemed nebulous, that he wanted to see more activity, and that he did not see a written report.

Ms. Hittman replied. The relationship was based on water industry and not culture. The origin of the relationship began with Preston Cole, a previous commissioner of the City's Department of Public Works and board member of the Water Council, traveling to Daegu.

Mr. Lee said that members were sent and were in possession of the written annual report well in advance.

Member Durtka moved to hold the annual report for the sister city relationship with Daegu Metropolitan City, South Korea for further information on progress and activities. There was no objection.

b. Tarime District, Tanzania (exp. 8/13/21)

The annual report was considered along with item 4, b. regarding the sister cities renewal application.

Member Spann moved approval of the annual report for the sister city relationship with Tarime District, Tanzania. There was no objection.

6. Discussion on the role of City officials on sister city related travel, representation, and activities.

*Appearing:
James Owczarski, City Clerk*

Mr. Lee said that members' had inquired about allowing others to represent the City or City officials in the absence of City officials and the ability of City officials to travel for sister city related business.

Mr. Owczarski commented. Diplomacy and City representation protocols were complicated and fell out of his purview. There would be little issue to allow representatives on behalf of the City and officials to speak at conferences or attend gatherings for diplomatic reasons. Beyond diplomatic reasons, representation of the City or its officials would surpass the committee or anyone else. Former Ald. Joe Davis previously traveled to South Africa and had been recognized as a honorary consul to South Africa. The City's ordinances prohibit the use of City funds for sister city related travel and would need to be changed to permit travel. A City budget appropriation via a budget amendment would be the pathway to acquire resources for sister city travel or programming. The City's budgetary environment has been difficult and limited.

Member Spann commented. Officials from foreign nations have come to Milwaukee, but Milwaukee officials have not traveled to foreign nations. Tarime and Tanzania was a main interest of his. He was interested to represent the City in lieu of City officials when traveling abroad at his own expense. An example would be to present a City proclamation.

Mr. Owczarski added comments. Oftentimes the efforts, gift giving, and travel by foreign cities or the sister cities have been great but have been lacking or insufficient from Milwaukee. The Morogoro, Tanzania sister city signing in Morogoro was an example where the gifts were great from Morogoro while the gifts from Milwaukee were poor. The Common Council could pass legislation to recognize member Spann or

anyone else to represent the City. The Sister Cities Committee chair Ald. Rainey would best sponsor such legislation.

7. Update on the status of sister city relationships.

a. Medan, Indonesia termination

Mr. Lee said that the sister city relationship with Medan, Indonesia was officially terminated on June 3, 2021 through the termination actions by the committee and Common Council.

b. Tema, Ghana signing ceremony

Appearing:

Martin Oduro, Ghana-Milwaukee Association Inc.

Mr. Oduro gave an update. No progress yet has been made to arrange a sister city agreement signing ceremony due to travel restrictions. The relationship was stilled desired. They are working with the new ambassador for the United States.

c. Other

There was no other discussion.

8. Review or update on sister city related events or activities.

a. Sister Cities International annual conference

Member Durtka gave a recap. The SCI annual conference occurred on July 15-16, 2021. The conference was virtual and focused on four panels: economic, education, sports and diplomacy, and humanitarian. He hosted two panels, including the humanitarian panel. He was a part of the global awareness team, focus on Japan sister cities, and the roundtable on specific issues. There were other roundtables on other countries, such as two on Tanzania on September 24 and October 29, 2021. These roundtable groups would collaborate with various sister city relationships pertaining to that country and would discuss about activities, issues, successes, and solutions.

Chair Rainey inquired about establishing a sister city relationship with Japan.

Member Durtka said that he is hopeful for establishing a relationship with Japan and that there exists a state-to-state sister city relationship between Japan and Wisconsin.

Member Spann said that he was recruited and would be involved with SCI's sports initiative and NBA Africa, would get the Milwaukee Bucks involved, and would be engaged in upcoming SCI and Africa-related meetings and conferences (such as Cape Town in 2023 and upcoming Washington D.C. meetings), and was hopeful to meet or arrange to meet African ambassadors, embassies, or officials such as the US ambassador for Tanzania Elsie Kanza.

Ms. Thompson Mosore added that she was aware Ambassador Kanza and that the ambassador should have arrived to her post by now.

Chair Rainey added that Congresswoman Gwen Moore's office could possibly assist member Spann to connect with the embassy.

b. Holiday Folk Fair

Member Durtka said that the fair would be virtual again due to the pandemic, would be in its 78th year, would showcase special programs, could feature one segment on Milwaukee sister cities and activities, and would be held November 19-21, 2021.

c. Meet-and-greet

Mr. Lee commented. The committee and sister city local sponsoring organizations had proposed to hold a meet-and-greet to socialize, connect with each other, network, and promote themselves to officials and other sectors. The pandemic and departure of Arlisia McHenry as an events programmer in the City Clerk's Office had prevented further planning and coordination for the meet-and-greet.

Ms. Thompson Mosore said that the meet-and-greet could be a virtual one, getting food from different vendors could be achieved safely, the event was an important one, and planning was a matter of collaboration.

Member Durtka said that there were two ideas to either hold a smaller scale private event for the local sister city communities to connect with each other or a larger scale event open to the public for awareness and promotion.

Member Tovar said that he would like to see the event be a worthy one, one that is in-person, and be planned for 2022.

d. Other

There was no other discussion.

9. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

10. Agenda items for the next meeting.

Members and Ms. Thompson Mosore discussed the following: lack of support, capacity, resources, and infrastructure for sister city programming; need to do more marketing, awareness, and creating a social media presence; acquiring dedicated capacity and funding; need for a dedicated coordinator position to do programming and implement the goals of the committee; Milwaukee being an ethnic city but not an international city; dedicating public space to feature international/sister cities (possibly at MacArthur Square); installing a sister cities display at the airport; adding new members to the committee such as the Milwaukee County Executive's office; identifying and aligning resources; doing capacity building research; Milwaukee having great assets such as water, airport, sports, and other aspects; being more proactive to produce exchanges; setting objectives; proposing a budget amendment to allocate funds from the City; that the current infrastructure limited the City's ability to assist the sister cities; and that sister cities promotion and programming went beyond what the committee can do.

Members said to discuss sister cities programming and infrastructure issues, ideas for improvement, and budget allocation at the next meeting.

11. Set next meeting date and time.

A special meeting to be set the week of October 4, 2021 prior to the deadline (October 21, 2021) to submit a budget amendment as part of the City's 2022 budget approval process.

12. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 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. KHALIF J. RAINEY, 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**

Monday, October 4, 2021

1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Special

This will be a virtual meeting conducted via GoToMeeting. Should you wish to join this meeting from your phone, tablet, or computer you may go to <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/219381685>. You can also dial in using your phone United States: +1 (408) 650-3123 and Access Code: 219-381-685.

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

2. Roll call.

Present 4 - Durtka, Tovar, Rainey, Spann

Excused 1 - Bhattacharyya

3. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes.

The meeting minutes from September 22, 2021 were approved without objection.

4. Discussion, review, and recommendations for the Mayor's 2022 proposed budget related to sister cities program and activities.

Appearing:

Christine Thompson Mosore, Mosorec International Foundation Inc.

Boris Nayflish

Makda Fessahaye, Dept. of Employee Relations Director

Members said that changes to the sister cities program include having a full-time staff coordinator position in the long-term, having part-time staff or an international affairs graduate intern from a local university to coordinate sister city activities and programming for the initial short-term, alternatively consider a non-governmental organization to be a possible program administrator, having an intern or staff person

evaluate and propose overall structure changes to the program, establishing an account for hospitality and gift giving purposes in dealing with foreign delegates/officials, and offering a City budget amendment in the amount of up to \$20,000 for staff/intern, programming, marketing, and initiatives.

Members said that the committee has discussed making changes for many years, City budget is extremely tight, doing a full budget for sister city purposes would not be possible at this time, perhaps an advisory group with other peer cities in the state can be formed, not many cities are active in terms of sister city coordination or activities, further capacity beyond the committee and clerk staff was certainly needed, and VISIT Milwaukee should be at the table as a partner.

Ms. Thompson Mosore commented. More collaboration between the City and local sponsors were needed. The lack of activities would be due to limited resources. Any initial resources and assistance from the City, such as with part-time staff or an intern and marketing funds, would go a long way even if the contribution was small. Marketing and promotion was needed. City leaders and officials needed to be more outspoken in support and promotion of the sister city relationships. Sister city related travel and funding would be a long term matter to find a solution for. Her organization members used their own resources and connections to hospitalize visiting delegates. Inquiry should be made to multiple local universities on the internship collaboration.

Members said that successful sister city relationships, such as the State sister city with Chiba (Japan), were built on a strong core of volunteers who provided for themselves and their travel at their own expense; the City needed to better welcome/treat visiting delegates and bring resources abroad; the City (at no to little costs) needed to connect and acquire resources from local assets better; a local university could possibly take the City's sister city program as a major project of theirs; possible universities to collaborate on an internship would include Marquette University, UW-Wisconsin, Concordia University; and a rough draft of a job description for staffing was already done.

Member Durtka said that his International Institute of Wisconsin organization had an 18-month long internship with Marquette University at about 15,000 a year.

Ms. Fessahaye said that the City has started recently a federal work study internship with UW-Milwaukee, further information about the work study program would be forwarded to the committee to consider as an option, each department head would be responsible to supervise their interns, and a temporary appointment process would allow to provide additional pay to an employee for added responsibilities.

Mr. Nayflish added that the City should provide funds to help City officials travel abroad.

Chair Rainey added that there should also be exploration to raise or acquire funds outside of the City budget.

Member Durtka moved approval to pursue a City budget amendment in the amount up to \$20,000 to improve sister city activities and goals as discussed by the committee, to pursue an internship or federal work study opportunity with UW-Milwaukee or a local university, and to engage VISIT Milwaukee as a partner. There was no objection.

Chair Rainey said that he would develop the budget amendment with the City's Legislative Reference Bureau and would share the amendment with the committee.

5. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

6. Agenda items for the next meeting.

Agenda items to include further discussion on doing an internship or federal work study program, discussion with VISIT Milwaukee, discussion with Port Milwaukee, discussion with Milwaukee County (sister cities display at the airport), Dept. of Public Works (sister cities public space at McArthur Square), and amending the City ordinance (adding additional members to the committee and other aspects).

7. Set next meeting date and time.

To be determined.

8. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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