

## CATANIA COMMITTEE – PHOENIX SISTER CITIES COMMISSION

### MINUTES FROM February 16, 2017

**Called to Order:** 5:36 pm

**Attendees:**

- Enrico Orsini
- Gianna Giorgio
- Alessia Mogavero
- Terri O'Reilly
- Wendy Rozov
- Charlotte Morrissey
- Antonio Tripodi
- Sal Tiralongo
- Mary Jane Trunzo
- Rick Gerrard
- Emanuela Divasto (Guest)
- Daniele Caputo (Guest)

**Location:** American-Italian Club

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Last month's minutes approved with the one correction (misspelling of Mary Anne).

**Giro Update:**

- **Rick** noted that one online registrant's credit card payment wouldn't go through and he had sent a follow-up email.
- **Prices of tickets:** Brief discussion about whether to charge the same amount as this year or increase the price. Consensus was to keep the price the same.
- **Swag Bags:** Wendy reported that there are 15 bags left. Wendy will break down and reuse as befits the committee.
- **Proceeds:** Total count was 38 people (4 children); raffle did really well this year. Presale of tickets was helpful and perhaps the low ticket price encouraged raffle ticket sales.
- **Final numbers:** According to Rick, these aren't available yet.

**YAEP:**

- **Report:** Our committee confirmed with Bethany Bennick that we would like to send and host a third YAEP student. We will see how the applicant review and interview process goes, but we are prepared to send (and host) two boys and one girl.

**Catania Committee Financial Report**

- **Balance Forward: 1,498.73.** No change from last month (Giro won't be reported until next month)
- **Costs (not included in this month's report):** Night of Open Door: Mask expenses: \$31.45 (per Alessia)

#### Phoenix Sister Cities 5K Run

- **Date:** Saturday, April 15, 2017
- **Entry:** \$20 in advance; \$30 day of
- **Option:** Arrange for a Catania T-Shirt. 5K Committee suggested getting a T-shirt sponsor for Catania t-shirts (\$100 sponsorship suggested). Another Idea: Arrange for Catania Soccer shirts for team and we pay for those individually

#### Wine Tasting (War of Wines, May 6)

- **Venue:** Enrico reported that he was approached by the Grenoble committee about shifting venues from the Wyndam to an art gallery in Scottsdale. The rental would be free but we would need to get a license to serve wine (possibly \$70 to \$300—city and state often have different fees). Catering costs would also need to be arranged, but could be lower than the current venue. Enrico invited Janine, of the Grenoble Committee, to attend our meeting to discuss, but she could not attend.
  - **Discussion:** A Scottsdale venue for a Phx Sister Cities event could cause issues with the Phx Sister Cities Board, which typically requires events to be held in Phoenix. Also, the change of venue so close to the event date with many open issues (parking availability, true cost of alcohol license, having to arrange for a caterer) seemed unwise. Idea tabled. But the committee supported looking at other venue ideas next year (i.e. partner with Alliance Francez).
- **“War of the Cars” at “War of the Wines”:** Wendy reported that she has arranged for 3 French and 3 Italian cars to be positioned outside our War of Wines venue. We can have voting for cars, too, to add some additional fun to the event. At the next meeting, with more information, we can decide whether to “pair” cars, just have people vote for “best in show,” and etc.
- **Enrico proposed having Dario act as the sommelier for the Italian wines and get a French sommelier to do the same for the French wines:** But, we will need the Grenoble committee to take on that task.
- **To Do:**
  - Need **final flyer**
  - Fern working on securing **live music**. Antonio suggested contacting ASU School of Music and Mary Jane indicated she had a contact. Enrico or Fern to follow-up with Mary Jane.
  - Need a **master of ceremonies (MC)** (possibly)
  - Need **Grenoble Committee to secure French wine and sommelier**
  - Need to **secure “professional” wine judges** (Enrico is working on this) v. “people’s choice
  - Need to **get tickets printed** for Night of the Open door and Italian Festival—
    - For Night of Open Door event: Terri to redo the “Save the Date” flyer we used at the Giro and Alessia to print on card stock.

- For Night of Open Door ticket sales: We will need to number each ticket, collect cash or check, and record the person's name, email, ticket number, etc. so they can be let into the actual event.

**Thunderbird School of Management:** Night of Open Door@Thunderbird on Saturday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Erickson Alumni Pavilion (1 Global Place, Glendale, AZ 85306).

Volunteers:

- Gianna is setting up (around 2) and will be there for the entire evening.
- Alessia can serve 4 to 6 p.m.
- Wendy can commit to all four hours.
- Charlotte to serve from 6 to 8.
- Thunderbird Tower is our location (due to rain date)

Theme for our table: Carnevale in Italy

Set up: Gianna

We will be raffling two Venetian masks. Gianna will bring other posters, mask making and coloring supplies. Event builds cultural awareness, can raise some money, and allows us to promote our War of the Wines event.

**Italian Festival:**

Date: March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

Location: Scottsdale Civic Center Mall

Question raised by Enrico. Do we need to pay \$150 for table space? We believe that our entry is free, but Gianna to confirm.

We will display Catania Phoenix Sister Cities information, collect donations for the victims of the earthquake, sell hats, promote the Gala, and sell tickets for War of the Wines.

**Business Partnerships:**

Update from Sal:

- Worksoft (Italian High-tech company with a branch in Catania) is trying to partner with TechEnergy LLC (in Phoenix),
- A Hedge Fund (DelMar Holding SPA from Catania) is looking for an existing company that works in building hydroponic greenhouses to make an investment in or create a joint venture with (Investment/Partnership of \$5 to \$10 million). Don't want to build or start a business.
- Rick G. will report to the City of Phoenix Office of Sustainability and the Office of Economic Development about both business opportunities

**Disability Committee Report** (Mary Jane T.)

In the past, have never had a submission from Catania for art/poetry contests for people with disabilities. Alessia reported trying to do extensive promotion, but it's not worked. Antonio indicated he may have a contact to try to secure submissions.

**Contest Information:** Photography/Drawing/Painting (submit by October), Poetry (submit by mid-May). Participants must be 18 and over. Prizes (only awarded to participants from our sister cities) include \$500 (1<sup>st</sup> prize), \$300 (second prize), and \$150 (third prize). Information is available on the Phx Sister Cities website, as well.

**Teddy Bears and Books Charity Project:** Take Teddy Bears and Books to Phoenix Children's Hospital to children who have cancer. Need to secure more donations for this charity project. Go online now to donate \$25 for the book and bear. Entire donation is tax-deductible.

**Calendars:** 2017 Calendars are still available for sale. They include art work from the contest submissions, holidays from all of our Sister Cities and are \$10/calendar.

**Upcoming Phoenix Sister Cities Events:**

- Matsuri Festival: Feb 25-26. No charge 10—5 p.m.
- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trip to Himeji, Japan (April 15—13)
- Ramat Gan Committee: Wine Event—at London Gold; In March
- Mayor's Gala, April 28<sup>th</sup>: Looking for gala sponsors for \$500 and up to \$5000. \$150/ticket
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Committee chairs meet to create master calendar (need proposed budget and dates of next year's Catania events)
- Gianna reviewed upcoming local Italian Events

**Call to Public:** No public member came forward.

**Meeting ended at 7:07.** Terri moved to adjourn. Gianna seconded. Meeting adjourned.