PHOENIX
Sister Cities
Discovery Changes Everything.

Chengdu Committee
January 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Location: Siu Wok, 2815 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85015

Attendees: Zachary Baker, Huacong (Hua) Chen, Miles Davenport, Natalie Gerity, Chris Johnson, Meghaan McEachen, Dianna Noli Hill, Lucy Ross, Danielle Ruffner, Jay Ruffner, Erin Schneiderman, Mary Jane Trunzo, Alec Wiggin, Allan Yang, Al Yee, and Joey Zhou

1. **Call to Order –** Chairperson Noli Hill called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM.

2. **Introduction of New Members and Guests** — Chairperson Noli Hill welcomed back Jay and Danielle Ruffner back to the Chengdu Committee. She also introduced Erin Schneiderman from Thunderbird School of Global Management. Another newcomer is Joey Zhou, who is a native of Chongqing and is currently and attorney in Phoenix.

3. **Approval of November 2016 Minutes** — Megan McEachen moved to approve the minutes, while Mary Jane seconded. The minutes are approved unanimously.

4. **Thunderbird School's Nights of the Open Door** — Erin explained that this event will happening on Thunderbird campus while other ASU campuses are doing their own open door night. The purpose is to a have a chance to showcase Thunderbird campus, such as through hands on interactive event to engage the community. In any given semester, over 50 countries are represented at Thunderbird, though most of the students from China, India, and US. Having a booth hosted by Phoenix Sister Cities (PSC) would showcase to Thunderbird's students and the local community what PSC does. Currently, four sister cities' committees have committed while there will be also be a general PSC booth. Erin recommended that the Chengdu Committee to do some demonstration, such as paper cutting, as the Chinese students will be showcasing name calligraphies. Erin noted that tables, chairs, and linens are all available for committee to set up booth. All of the sister cities committees will be placed together. PSC will have its mini zone with each committee having its own table. In previous years, the event had 1500 visitors (students and community members). The committee brained stormed setting up a tea station in addition to paper cutting or coloring Sichuan opera masks. The activities at the event should be free with food (handled by an exclusively contracted vender) being on the only expense.

5. **Incoming Official Chengdu Delegation (Jan. 28 – 31)** — Chairperson Noli Hill and Allan Yang reported that one delegation (five people in each) will arrive on the 28th (Dujiangyang – satellite city of Chengdu) while another delegation will arrive on the 29th (Chengdu). Both delegations will attend the closing ceremonies for the Lights of the World festival (first day's activity). The main purpose is for the Chengdu delegation to extend personal invitation to Phoenix Mayor to attend the Global Innovations and Entrepreneurship Conference (May 12-15, 2017), especially the Mayors' forum. Both delegations will also only be in Phoenix for two days. The second day's activity is meeting Mayor Stanton. Another hopeful activity is having the delegations attend a Phoenix Suns game. Currently, Monday afternoon is currently free for the Chengdu delegation,

thus volunteers from the Chengdu Committee may be needed to act as translators or local guides. Miles Davenport confirmed that entertaining the Chengdu delegation will fall under the Protocol Budget, not a Chengdu Committee expense.

6. **Lights of the World Lantern Exhibit** — Allan Yang noted that the exhibit ends on January 29th, where there will also be a closing ceremony.

7. **Chengdu US Sister Cities Youth Debate Challenge –** Allan Yang reported that Phoenix has received invitation for this year's challenge, which will take place on June 7-15th. All of the costs (traveling and landed fees) are covered for one team. Any extra team's landed fees are covered (room and board) by the Chengdu education department.

8. **2017 Phoenix Chinese Week** — Chairperson Noli Hill noted that, as with previous years, the festival will be at Margaret T. Hance Park. The hours for Friday are 9-3, and the hours for Saturday and Sunday are 10-6.
   A. **Chengdu Booth & Activities:** The committee brainstormed for information to include at the booth. The coloring station for the children will remain. It would be good to have something to sell at the booth – which could be stuffed pandas or some other Chengdu knickknack. Natalie Gerity and Meghaan suggested selling Sichuan spices. Although ideally, it would be best to sell tickets to a fundraising event. Hua Chen suggested having more information about Chengdu and the activities hosted by the Committee.
   B. **Volunteers for the Chengdu Booth:** Chairperson Noli Hill noted that Adam Yee will coordinate volunteers. Hua noted that she can try to get tourism brochures for the booth while she is in Chengdu.

9. **2017 Chengdu International Youth Music Festival** — Miles Davenport reported that Phoenix Sister Cities has yet to receive this year's invitation from Chengdu. He also has no leads on any band to send to Chengdu this year.

10. **Phoenix Sister Cities 5K Run/Walk** — Chris Johnson reported that the first meeting will a conference call on Friday. He will update the committee at the next meeting.

11. **Chengdu Subcommittee Report**

   A. **Art and Culture**: Tabled.
   B. **Project Budget Coordinator:** Miles reported that the budget for the Chengdu Committee is still in the negative numbers. He noted the possibility of having two ledgers, which would allow us to take negative amount on a separate ledger. Maybe prep Sichuan spice pack.
   C. **Business:** Allan noted that Chengdu will host the annual Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship conference, which will be in May. In the past, he was been involved with "The Mayor's Session" at the conference.
   D. **Membership:** Lucy Ross noted that she needs Rick Gerrard to print out membership forms for Chinese Week.
   E. **Public Relations:** Tabled.
   F. **Youth & Education**: Alec Wiggin reported that the deadline for YAEP is Friday. He has no idea how many have signed up yet. The requirements for applying to the program is that the youth ambassador candidates must be living in Phoenix proper.
   G. **Fundraising:** Meghaan and Natalie will be meeting to plan a fundraising event. Perhaps can sell tickets for at Chinese Week.

12. **Disabilities Awareness Committee (DAC)** – Mary Jane Trunzo reported that Teddy Bear and Books event only sold a few sets this year. It would be helpful if PSC could help buy the

remaining bear sets. Another fundraising plan for the DAC is the 2017 calendar, which contains the arts and photography and poetry contest entries. Thanks to the fundraising, the art and photograph competition now has over $3000 in combined scholarships. Mary Jane also reminded the committee that the poetry competition is coming up in mid-May.

13. **Upcoming Phoenix Sister Cities Events**
    - A. Youth Ambassador Applications due January 13th
    - B. Catania Committee Scavenger Hunt: January 28th
    - C. Chinese Cultural & Cuisine Festival at Margaret T. Hance Park East: February 10th-12th
    - D. Thunderbird Night of Open Door: February 18th
    - E. Chinese New Year Banquet at Great Wall Restaurant: February 18th
    - F. Matsuri Festival: February 25th-26th
    - G. PSC Delegation Visit to Himeiji: April 5th-13th

14. **Call to the Public** – None.

15. **Adjournment** – Mary Jane motioned to adjourn, and Natalie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Huacong Chen, Committee Secretary, February 4, 2017

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- January 13, 2017 – YAEP applications due
- January 28, 2017 – Catania Committee scavenger hunt
- January 29, 2017 – Last day for the Lights of the World Festival
- February 8, 2017 – Chengdu Committee Meeting
- February 10-12, 2017 – Phoenix Chinese Week
- February 18, 2017 – Thunderbird Night of Open Door; 4pm to 8pm
- February 18, 2017 – Chinese New Year Banquet at Great Wall Restaurant; Dinner at 6 PM
- February 25-26, 2017 – Himeji Committee's Arizona Matsuri
- April 5-13, 2017 – Himeiji Outbound delegation