



PHOENIX

Sister Cities

Discovery Changes Everything.

Chengdu Committee September 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Location: The Old Spaghetti Factory, 1418 N. Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Attendees: Natalya Brown, Tristan Brown, Grace Chen, Huacong (Hua) Chen, Zhigang Chen, Xiaoli Cheng, Beth Clarke, Miles Davenport, Jonathan Gelbart, Natalie Gerity, Chris Johnson, Kim Kunasec, Aitanna Mallari, Meghaan McEachen, Dianna Noli Hill, Shaloni Pinto, Yang Song, Mary Jane Trunzo, Teresa Valdez, Patrice Wappel, Casey Wen, Alec Wiggin, Decker Williams, Allan Yang, Adam Yee, Al Yee.

- 1. Call to Order** – Chairperson Noli Hill called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.
- 2. Introduction of New Members and Guests** – Chairperson Noli Hill welcomed everyone and gave a quick recap of the events since the last meeting, which was in June. In particular, she thanked Mary Jane Trunzo for hosting the youth ambassador potluck. Afterwards, the attendees were asked to give a quick introduction.
- 3. Approval of June 8, 2016 Minutes** – Miles Davenport motioned to approve the minutes as written. Allan Yang seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- 4. Chengdu Speech & Debate Exchange** – Chairperson Noli Hill welcomed Beth Clarke to the Committee and gave a brief background explaining that Beth is the president of the AZ Speech and Debate Coaches Association and a teacher at Brophy College Preparatory. Beth explained that American-style debate has become very popular in China, especially as a way to improve English skills and develop strategic strategy. As part of China's push for American-style debate, the debate competition that took place in Chengdu was set up. The experience was wonderful, so both she and the two debaters representing Phoenix (Shaloni Pinto and Tristan Brown) would return for another competition. Beth also noted that Brophy would be willing to host a competition. Shaloni described the experience as both a debate competition and cultural exchange. She valued the cultural exchange change through the competition. Tristan explained that debate was only two days, so they spent the rest of the trip (total of nine days) exploring Chengdu. The Phoenix debaters and their coach were treated as guests of honor, which was a humbling experience. The main topic of the tournament concerned whether electronic publishing would be a replacement for paper materials. Shaloni and Tristan noticed differences in perspective between countries for point of view of the topic. There were also different perspectives in debating, namely the experience was more cordial. Other differences that shaped the debate experience were the differences in thoughts on government and its functions, in thoughts about social functions, and the evaluation of accessibility of books. Generally, there were different perspectives on society – length of history and paper document history (scrolls). Allan asked for suggestions for the training or program suggestions. Shaloni, Tristan, and Beth recommended sending more teams and expanding opportunity to more youths. Loved the food. They also would go back to Chengdu as a tourist. Hua mentioned that souvenir books for the debate competition have been made, and if possible, copies of the souvenir book

will be shared with the debaters and Beth.

- 5. AZ Language Preparatory Mini Ambassador Program** – Natalie Gerity explained that she was a former youth ambassador to Grenoble, France and found the experience should be started earlier. For example, teenage angst might impact the value of experience. The mini ambassador program was set up like the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program but it included parent involvement during the exchange. The Chengdu trip was two years ago, and the mini ambassadors went to a private school in Chengdu for an immersion experience at the school. Due to both the Chengdu families and the American families valuing the experience, a new delegation will be going back to Chengdu in May 2017. From the first mini ambassador program, Natalie reported that the oldest of the mini ambassadors was offered an internship at an international law firm once he turns 16. So starting young has benefits. Natalie also sees the benefit of having multiple languages and merging into the economy, which is why the Arizona Language Preparatory offers a beneficial education experience. The children switch languages during the week: education for two days using Mandarin, for two days using Spanish, and for one day in English. Chairperson Noli Hill suggests visiting the school during their open house, which happens at the end of the year. Currently, the school is K-6, but grades 7-8 may be added next year. The school is also trying to get Confucius Classroom status.
- 6. Lights of the World: Traditional Chengdu Lantern Art Festival** – Chairperson Noli Hill introduced Yang Song and his company, which organizes the lantern festival reminiscent of those from Sichuan Province in the United States. Song reported that this year's festival will be the largest light show in the U.S. and it will also be the first show in the Phoenix area. The festival will start November 18th and end January 29th for a total of 79 open days. The festival will also have an acrobatic show with performers from Chengdu. Song noted this is a celebration of the 30-year celebration of sister cities relationship between Chengdu and Phoenix. Originally, it was hoped that a business and tourism forum would run concurrent with the festival, but these plans are on-hold due to too-short notice. However, Song noted they still want to do something special for the two cities' relationship. The entry fee for the festival will be \$25 for adult one entry, and entry includes performance show. Song stated that Phoenix Sister Cities can set up a booth during the festival for free for the sake of the Chengdu Committee. Regarding the festival, Song added that there will be food vendors from Chengdu and will have special events which would take place on the weekends (there are 11 weekends). The plan is to have an International Day. Song confirmed that the event has a Facebook presence.
- 7. Phoenix-Chengdu Business & Tourism Forum** – Allan reported that he and Dr. William Brashears from ASU were sent as Vice Mayor Gallego's representatives of Phoenix Sister Cities to attend an international conference in Chengdu from June 23rd to 26th. Allan and William were invited as VIP guests and attended the Mayors' Forum of the 2016 Chengdu Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference. This was Allan's second time representing PSC and the Mayor at the conference. Phoenix was also Chengdu's only sister city in the U.S. to speak at the conference, and Phoenix also coordinated with Chengdu's Foreign Affairs Office on other events of the conference. During the trip, Allan and William met with Chengdu's Mayor Tang informally and Vice Mayor Fu of Chengdu officially to talk about Phoenix Sister Cities and Dr. Song's Lights of the World lantern festival.
- 8. FYR 2016/17 Fundraising Committee for Projects/Events/Activities** – Miles reported that so far, the committee has four things planned for this fiscal year, but the committee

should find something to do for the end of this year. Ideally, this end-of-the-year plan would be a fundraiser, for example, selling something at the Light festival. Song noted that it might be possible to donate some money from the Light of the World festival to the committee. Other fundraising ideas presented during the discussion included a beer festival. Miles noted that the first event in 2017 is Chinese Week, and the other 3 events are in or after the summer of 2017. The summer event would be the Chengdu International Youth Music Festival. The planned-for-out-bound delegation will likely take place in the fall. The last event planned for the fiscal year is a possible debate competition, reminiscent of the one that took place in Chengdu this summer.

9. Planning for 2017 Chengdu International Youth Music Festival – Miles suggested starting the band search early to ensure a band could be sent for 2017. Hua suggested organizing a music festival as a fundraiser and a way of selecting a band.

10. Phoenix SC 5K Run/Walk – Chairman Noli Hill received Chris Johnson’s confirmation that he will be the committee’s representative to plan the 5K run/walk fundraiser.

11. Chengdu Subcommittee Reports –

- A. **Art and Culture:** Zhigang Chen will remain the chair.
- B. **Project Budget Coordinator:** See item 7. Miles will remain the chair.
- C. **Business:** Allan will remain the chair.
- D. **Membership:** Lucy Ross will remain the chair.
- E. **Public Relations:** Adam Yee is the new public relationship subcommittee chair. He is involved in many social groups. The role will focus on getting information out to the community.
- F. **Youth & Education:** Alec Wiggins is the YAEP coordinator for the year.

12. Disability Awareness Committee – Mary Jane explained that DAC is a program committee not a city-based one. She reminded everyone that the arts competition is in its 12th year, and this year’s scholarship money will be over \$2000. November 4th will be the arts competition display. People can vote for the people’s choice award that evening. Submissions for the art competition will close in mid-October. Mary Jane also reported that DAC is getting an award in Grenoble in November, and it will be part of a disabilities awareness conference. To raise money to support the trip, there will be a dinner (October 9th, 5-7 PM) at Voila Restaurant. The price of the dinner is \$100 with \$60 going to the restaurant and \$40 going to DAC. The amount raised at the event will also be matched by the city. The dinner fundraiser will have door prizes for the diners.

13. Upcoming Events – (update from agenda)

- A. Ennis Book Festival (Downtown ASU) – October 29th
- B. International Competition for Disabled Artist: Artwork Show – November 4th
- C. Veteran’s/Remembrance Day Pancake Breakfast (Phoenix Deer Valley Airport) – November 5th

14. Call to Public –

- Hua informed the committee of a Chinese community performance that will take place the evening of September 24th

15. Adjournment – May Jane motioned to adjourn, and Chris seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Huacong Chen, Committee Secretary, October 9, 2016

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- October 9, 2016 – Fundraising dinner at Voila Restaurant
- October 12, 2016 – Chengdu Committee meeting
- October 29, 2016 – Ennis Book Festival (Downtown ASU)
- November 4, 2016 – International Competition for Disabled Artists
- November 5, 2016 – Veteran's/Remembrance Day Pancake Breakfast (Phoenix Deer Valley Airport)
- November 9, 2016 – Chengdu Committee meeting
- December 14, 2016 – Chengdu Committee meeting
- Through 2016 holiday season: DAV Holiday Teddy Bear and Book Event