



PHOENIX

Sister Cities

Discovery Changes Everything.

Chengdu Committee November 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes

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

Attendees: William Brashears, Grace Chen, Huacong (Hua) Chen, Zhigang Chen, Miles Davenport, Meng Li Din, Chris Johnson, Christopher Jordan, Harry Keidan, Eva Li, Meghaan McEachen, Dianna Noli Hill, Lucy Ross, Shaloni Pinto, Alec Wiggin, Allan Yang, Al Yee.

- 1. Call to Order** – Chairperson Noli Hill called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.
- 2. Introduction of New Members and Guests** – Chairperson Noli Hill welcomed everyone, in particular Harry Keidan, who was more active in the committee years ago. She also welcomed back Shaloni Pinto, who brought Christopher Jordan (new attendee) to present their debate camp idea. The other new attendee was Ming Li, who came from Tucson due to a friend.
- 3. Approval of October 12, 2016 Minutes** – Hua motions and Miles seconded to approve October meeting minutes. Passed unanimously.
- 4. Athena Award for Elena Zee, Chengdu Committee member** – Chairperson Noli Hill congratulated Elena on the Athena Award.
- 5. Thunderbird School's Night of the Open Door** – Chairperson Noli Hill noted that the 2017 event will be 18th of February, and it will be an ASU event at Thunderbird Campus. This event that enables interaction with students. The Chengdu Committee has committed to take a part in the full Phoenix Sister Cities (PSC) booth (not city-specific). The event will be 4 PM-8 PM. Chairperson Noli Hill noted that a coordinator for event hopes to speak at next meeting.
- 6. Lights of the World Lantern Exhibit** – Chairperson Noli Hill explained that this is the largest light show in the US. The company producing the event is from Chengdu – tradesman from China worked all day for many days to put the exhibit up. A portion of the dinosaur exhibit was demoed at the AZ State Fair. The vice president of the company, Dr. Song Yang put together a fundraiser opportunity for PSC. If tickets are purchased through PSC website or with a Chengdu Committee code, PSC or the Chengdu Committee would get \$1 per ticket. Hua Chen added that some of the food vendors are from Chengdu and will be providing authentic Sichuan street food. Chairperson Noli Hill noted that a VIP reception will be held on Nov. 18th (time TBA). The welcome barbecue for tradesman, engineers, and performers that was discussed last month is currently on-hold.
- 7. Chengdu Speech & Debate Camp** – Shaloni Pinto and Christopher Jordan presented their proposed model for a debate camp. Although the debate program in Chengdu is very new, students are very interested in debate. Their camp hopes to move the US training

model for debate to Chengdu. The camp would be modeled after the camp held at ASU Barrett Honors College geared towards high school students. The camp would be 8 days long (enables two sessions in July 2017) and requires an upfront fee. The instruction period would be 8-10 hours a day. Depending on space, the camp experience could be a live-in camp. The camp would also be another way for developing more true English proficiency. Shaloni and Christopher hope to collaborate with universities or an education company. They would also like to partner with PSC to partner with local actors. Dr. William Brashears mentioned Sichuan University possibly having space for their camp sessions.

8. **2017 Phoenix Chinese Week** – Eva Li reported that the 2017 Phoenix Chinese Week will span Feb. 10-12. The hours will be extended to 10 AM to 6 PM on the weekends. The event is expected to have 80 vendors. Although the Taipei Committee will lead PSC Committee for 2017, the Chengdu Committee will still have a booth. Eva also informed the committee that the Chinese Week banquet will be on February 18th.

A. **Honor & Duty: Mississippi Delta Chinese Documentary:** Chairperson Noli Hill went to the Chinese American Citizen Alliance's screening of the video and found the event heartwarming and educational. The producer was present, and the QA session was interactive. Eva noted that the turnout for two screenings was 140 attendees. The Chinese American Citizen Alliance hopes to do similar type of screening events in every few months.

9. **2017 Chengdu International Youth Music Festival** – Miles reported PSC is waiting for confirmation from Chengdu on the date of the festival. Miles explained that the two bands who went to the festival in previous years found it to be a fabulous experience. For bands to participant, they must have funds to travel to Chengdu, but once they land, their expenses are covered. There are no requirements that the band must all be in Phoenix. Dianna Noli Hill noted that Tina Michelle, who works with Doc Jones on Phoenix Jazz Day, was really interested in helping to send a band to this year's festival.

10. **Phoenix SC 5K Run/Walk** – Chris Johnson reported that the planning committee will be having meetings at some point. They are still looking for more volunteers. Currently, the planning committee has sought input on the best date for the 2017 event. The Chengdu Committee suggested having the event before April, possibly in March.

11. Chengdu Subcommittee Reports –

B. **Art and Culture:** Zhigang Chen had nothing new to report. He suggested that the committee come up with ideas for the Chinese Week Booth, such as how to highlight Chengdu Committee activities, which would be a way to get more people to come to meetings. A suggestion was also raised to post flyers for the next Chengdu Committee meeting.

C. **Project Budget Coordinator:** Miles noted that the Chengdu Committee should get creative on fundraising ideas so the committee would have funds to plan for events.

D. **Business:** Allan Yang noted that Chengdu will host the annual Global Innovation and Entrepreneurship conference, which will be in May. In the past, he has been involved with "The Mayor's Session" at the conference.

E. **Membership:** Lucy Ross reported that the Chengdu Committee received \$85 from membership renewals or signups.

F. **Public Relations:** Tabled.

G. **Youth & Education:** Alec Wiggins explained the Youth Ambassador Exchange

Program to the attendees. A meeting will be held next week for the selection process.

12. Disability Awareness Committee – Tabled.

13. Upcoming Events – (update from agenda)

- A. Inbound Himeji Delegation for 40th Anniversary
- B. YAEP Preview Night, November 14th
- C. Le Beaujolais Nouveau, November 19th
- D. DAC Bear and Book Sale

14. Call to Public –

- Hua announced that the Chengdu Committee will be using Mailchimp for communications with members. So in case of spam filters, those on the email list are asked to keep an extra eye on committee meeting email reminders.
- Al Yee mentioned Chengdu has a developing relationship with Mexico.

15. Adjournment – Miles motioned and Lucy seconded; ended at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Huacong Chen, Committee Secretary, January 9, 2017

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- November 14, 2016 – YAEP Preview Night
- November 18, 2016 to January 29, 2017 – Lights of the World Lantern Festival
- November 19, 2016 – Le Beaujolais Nouveau
- Through 2016 holiday season: DAC Holiday Teddy Bear and Book Event
- January 11, 2017 – Chengdu Committee Meeting
- February 10-12, 2017 – Phoenix Chinese Week