



PHOENIX Sister Cities

Discovery Changes Everything.

CHENGDU COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2017

Siu Wok Chinese Buffet

2801 North Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Committee Members Present:

Huacong (Hua) Chen

Kim Kunasek

Allan Yang

Miles Davenport

Dianna Noli Hill

Adam Yee

Cedric Johnson

Mary Jane Trunzo

Chris Johnson

Alexander Wiggin

Staff Present:

Rick Gerrard

Alex Blythe

Public Present:

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Noli Hill called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM.

Item 2. Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests

Everyone was introduced to Alex, Rick's intern. Kim was also welcomed back to the committee after months of being away.

Item 3. Approval of April 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Allan motioned for the approval of the April meeting minutes, and Miles seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Item 4. Nomination of Chengdu Sister Cities Committee Chairman for FY 17-18

Allan nominated Chairperson Noli Hill for a second year as the Chengdu Committee chairperson. Allan briefly explained Chairperson Noli Hill's contribution to the committee and why she should continue to be the chairperson for another year. Mary Jane seconded Allan's nomination. No other nominations were on the floor. Allan called for a vote, and everyone present voted for Dianna as the Chairperson for FY 17-18.

Item 5. Election of Vice Chair and Secretary.

Chairperson Noli Hill nominated Allan as vice-chair, and Miles seconded the motion. All present were in favor. For the secretary position, Hua will step down for FY 17-18. So far, no one has expressed interest to step in as secretary.

Item 6. Update of YAEP

Chairperson Noli Hill recommended that everyone visit Bronson's blog for his humorous observations of visiting Chengdu. The proposed date for the committee's dinner with the Chengdu/Phoenix youth ambassadors is July 19th. Mary Jane will be the host again this year, and the dinner will be jointly held with the Grenoble Committee. Thus, the youth ambassadors are three boys for Chengdu and their counterparts and three girls for Grenoble and their counterparts. Mary Jane asked that guests should only bring a dish for main dish, as she will handle the dessert. Hua will make a sign-up sheet for the potluck. For preparations, Mary Jane asked for people to arrive at 4:30 PM for setting up.

Item 7. Phoenix Sister Cities 5K Run Report

Chris noted that he could not attend the 5K Run meeting. According to the summary report, the total number of participants was about 100 with Chengdu contributing between 20 to 25 participants. The next 5K Run will be held on November 4, 2017. Chris will remain as the Chengdu Committee's representative for planning the 5K Run event.

Item 8. Recap of Sustainability Forum (May 1st) and Chengdu Global Innovation Conference

Allan noted the sustainability forum was a partnership between Arizona State University West and Phoenix Sister Cities (PSC). The topic of discussion focused on urban sustainability and having collaboration between cities. The speakers included a professor from Chengdu, Phoenix's Chief Sustainability Officer, Calgary's Director of Environmental and Safety Management, and Chengdu Committee's Allan Yang and Dr. William Brashears. Both ASU West and PSC would like to hold another sustainability conference, perhaps as soon as late 2017. Chairperson Noli Hill reported that she attended the event and thought the conference was great community education event.

Allan was selected as the representative for the mayor to Chengdu's Global Innovation Conference, so he will be attending the conference for a third year. Allan shared Phoenix's experience in plans for revitalizing the downtown area, such as help provided to small entrepreneurs, at the conference. He also discussed at the conference how the sister cities relationship promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, with an example being the Light of the World festival. While in Chengdu, Allan met with the new Chengdu mayor and made plans for a March 2018 Chengdu delegation trip.

Item 9. Chengdu US Sister Cities Youth Debate Challenge

Rick reported that the Phoenix debate teams are due to return June 15th. This year's two teams placed second and third; Honolulu's team won first. Qing from the Chengdu Foreign Affairs office reported to Rick that the competition was fun to watch – filled with heated debate. Rick noted that Elizabeth Clark would still like to invite Chengdu debate teams to Phoenix for a competition. Chairperson Noli Hill noted that she will invite Elizabeth and the two teams to speak about their experience at the September committee meeting.

Item 10. Mini-ambassador exchange program

Rick reported that the mini ambassadors left for Chengdu at the end of May. A total of ten mini ambassadors (some were repeats from past trip) and their parents went on this trip. Before departure, the mini ambassadors were given certificates as mini ambassadors of Phoenix by Phoenix Sister Cities.

Item 11. Arizona State Fairgrounds Events

Chairperson Noli Hill and Rick reported that Lights of the World for this winter season is planned for November 18th to January 2nd, and the event will be held at the Arizona State Fair Grounds. Rick also reported that the state fair has offered booths for all 10 Phoenix Sister Cities committees at the Arizona State Fair. PSC would like to have a mini-WorldFest at the Arizona State Fair on October 21st. The fairgrounds will provide electricity at booth, and PSC will also have a stage. Chairperson Noli Hill will be the point of contact between the PSC committees and the director of the Arizona State Fair.

Item 12. Chengdu Youth Music Festival

Miles noted that we need to plan for sending a band in 2018 now. The stage at the mini-WorldFest could be used as part of the selection process for sending a band to Chengdu.

Item 13. Chengdu Subcommittee Reports

A. Art & Culture

Tabled.

B. Project Budget Coordinator

Miles reported that Dumplings & Beer event made money for the committee. Another piece of good news was that the committee's deficit may be excused at the end of the fiscal year. Rick noted that the revenues from the 5K Run, the Dumplings & Beer event, and last winter's Lights of the World festival will be money for Chengdu Committee. Rick suggested that the committee do two fundraising events a year.

C. Business

Tabled.

D. Membership

Tabled.

E. Public Relations

Adam was asked to make ideas for marketing Worldfest.

F. Youth & Education

Tabled.

Item 14. DAC Disabilities Awareness Committee

Mary Jane reported that DAC received no submissions from Chengdu for the first time ever since the start of the poetry competition. The deadline for art competition will be October.

Item 15. Upcoming Phoenix Sister Cities Event

- New website: Rick asked for input.
- Year-end membership event (Monday, June 26th): There will be entertainment and two teachers from Taipei visiting. RSVP is recommended by June 21st.
- YAEP Potluck (July 19th)
- Global Links Business Luncheon (September 14th): This year's topic will be challenges in the sports entertainment industry.
- PSC 5K Run/Walk (November 4th)
- WorldFest at AZ State Fair (October 21st)
- Lights of the World (starts November 18th)

Item 16. Call to Public –

Kim noted that Borsendorfer competition could be promoted to bring Chengdu and other Chinese competitors.

Allan suggested that the PSC establish a teaching English program with Chengdu. Allan also brought up whether a performance group from Chengdu will be invited to Phoenix for the 2018 Chinese Week.

Mary Jane suggested that Chengdu Committee could help Chairperson Emeritus Al Yee in some way. Allan is still in contact with Chairperson Yee, so he will let the committee know what we can do to help.

Adam promoted a Fourth of July event hosted by the Chinese United Association. The event will take place a church in Tempe and will provide lunch and all-day games.

Item 17. Adjournment

Allan motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary Jane seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM