

Minutes of the Phoenix Sister Cities Hermosillo Committee

Tuesday April 10, 2018

Half Moon Sports Grill, 2121 E Highland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Attendees: Rick Gerrard, Emilio Gaynor, Dean Apostolides, Mike Rakowsky, MaryJane Trunzo, Moyca Gupta, Frank Beltran, Jeff Currey, Gwen Currey, Molly Currey, Rhiannon Draegan, Meredith Sanchez, Nadia Rivera, Mayra Driessen.

Call to order: Meeting of the Hermosillo Committee was called to order at 6:11 pm by committee Chairman, Emilio Gaynor.

Welcome and introduction of attendees.

Minutes for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 meeting motioned for approval by Emilio Gaynor, seconded by all. Motion carried.

T-Gen discussion: T-Gen employees Meredith Sanchez and Nadia Rivera explained that this is a nonprofit medical research institute without patients, but rather dedicated to conducting groundbreaking research on genetic components of complex diseases including cancer, neurological disorders, infectious disease, and rare childhood disorders. It depends on 300+ clinical and scientific partnerships such as “City of Hope” in California. They approached this committee because they would like to have a partnership with Hermosillo; one family from there reached out, and now they are working with 20 families from Hermosillo enrolled in a study which looks at DNA changes which may influence symptoms (this is the very first time that they work directly with patients).

It costs \$10K to sequence a family of 3, and hope to build capacity in Hermosillo so that families do not have to travel to Phoenix with an ill family member. Dr. Duran and Dr. Medina are their contacts down there and who are sending T-Gen their patients records. So far they have been able to fund from existing donations however such is not permanently sustainable. T-Gen would like to have a fundraising dinner in Hermosillo and educate on Genomics and its future. Or, a family night on July 14 in Phoenix for Hispanic families involved.

Hermosillo Burn Task Force: F. Beltran noted that Project CURE donated 1 out 4 items needed. Attendees called to vote on whether we should proceed with shipment “as is” while Project CURE procures pending items,. Motion approved to send the items already procured, and to have Hermosillo pick up the remaining ones later (or to meet them at the border). It was noted that we have a relationship gap since Ms. Angelina Munoz is Hermosillo's interim Mayor while Manuel Ignacio Acosta is running for the Senate. The first election is on July 1st , the new mayor new role starts on September 16th.

Economic Development: Frank Beltran reported that Arizona ranks 5 in the nation according to the “Index of State Economic Momentum”, a quarterly report published by the Washington, D.C.-based State Policy Reports. The 3 key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth and population growth. The Arizona Mexico Commission Summit Conference will take place June 14-15, 2018 at the Marriott Star Pass Resort in Tucson.

Youth Ambassador Exchange Program: Moyca Gupta reported that M. Rakowsky is representing the committee at a meeting this Sunday April 15, 2018 from 12:00 to 2:30PM. Phoenix youth ambassadors will know who their Hermosillo host families are in May. YA present introduced themselves and expressed their enthusiasm for the program. The interest from Desert Vista High School is STEM, earth science and conservation, and from the Paradise Valley High School science, bio-science and veterinarian specialties. They raised \$12K to properly host their counterparts coming from all sister cities this summer (each ambassador committed to, wrote and sent 30 letters to accomplish such). They cannot believe that more people are not aware of this outstanding program.

Disabilities Committee: MaryJane Trunzo described for new guests present that this committee promotes access and inclusion and further described its activities. She asked youth ambassadors to bring information about this committee, events and activities to the Special Education departments at their schools. MJ trunzo shared that the committee would like to have a Grand Canyon rafting activity for a 18-25 years old group with Hermosillo participants (the company which organizes such is called "daring Adventures").

Sports Activities: No activity to report.

40th Anniversary: Emilio Gaynor reported that he met with Interim Mayor Angelina Munoz in Hermosillo and it is not possible to make plans nor to proceed because they are 100% focused in Reelection.

CANACO President visit and Dinner Expense: Ana Elena Aguayo brought a CANACO chamber business group from Hermosillo for meetings (arranged by a consultant, not PSC). Emilio met with the group and hosted a meal, motion approved to reimburse E. Gaynor \$75.

Fundraising: Dean Apostalides noted that concerts could help us raise up to \$2K if we use the PSC non-profit license which would allow us to create revenue from alcohol sales proceeds. He first needs to schedule the concerts and will let us know.

Upcoming PSC Events: R. Gerrard reported on the upcoming Grenoble committee French Film night at the Film Bar on April 23, May 3 and June 28, with movie and wine included in the ticket. The Mayor's Gala will take place on April 26th at the Van Buren with Irish cuisine and entertainment. Motion for committee to cover 50% of tickets cost that each committee member may purchase approved. Additional events are Taipei's youth to perform at the Herrera Performing Arts Center during Heritage Week Arizona on May 18, and the Chengdu Committee Dumplings And Beer fundraiser on May 24 at the Dragon Palace.

Other business or committee expenses: Up to \$40 approved for food ordered at this meeting attended by YA, parents and T-Gen guests.

Proposed Hermosillo Children's Choir trip to Phoenix and Scottsdale: R. Gerrard met with Rene Bermudez; October is a proposed month and could possibly be planned around the 40th anniversary date. Venue is to be determined and a few options are available (2 shows to be had, one in Phoenix and one in Scottsdale). The Phoenix Children Choir could possibly join this outstanding performance.

Call to the Public: Dr. Felipe Lopez (he is based in Nogales and undertaking Red Cross Training) wishes to participate with this committee and burn activities. E. Gaynor agreed to sign the formal letters needed and MJ Trunzo will be in touch.

Meeting motioned to adjourn at 7:5 pm by E. Gaynor, seconded by M. Rakowsky and approved by all attendees.