



PHOENIX Sister Cities

Discovery Changes Everything.

CHENGDU COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2018

Siu Wok Chinese Buffet

2801 North Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Committee Members & Public Present:

Carlos Bautista
Dr. William Brashears
Natalya Brown
Huacong Chen

Zhigang Chen
Dianna Noli Hill
Jason Bautista Pejay
Lucy Ross

Mary Jane Trunzo
Allan Yang

Staff Present: Rick Gerrard

Item 1. Call to Order

Chairman Dianna Noli Hill called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Item 2. Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests - All attendees were introduced.

Item 3. Approval of February 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Tabled; Approval of March 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes – Lucy Ross motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Natalya Brown. Motion passed.

Item 4. Chinese Week Supplies Reimbursement of \$28

Mary Jane Trunzo motioned to reimburse Chairman Noli Hill for supplies for Chinese Week Booth not to exceed \$28. Huacong Chen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Item 5. Report Chengdu Outbound Delegation to celebrate 30th Anniversary

Rick Gerrard reported on the success of the delegation to Chengdu, China in March and gave many highlights of the trip. Rick assisted the business members of the delegation in arranging meetings with interested parties in Chengdu including Fire Dept. personnel who discussed best practices instruction to their counterparts with the Chengdu Fire Dept. The mini-youth ambassadors coordinated by Natalie Gerity also traveled to Chengdu and spent a week attending school in Chengdu.

Item 6. Youth Ambassador Update

Several committee members including 2017 Youth Ambassador Alumni attended the 2018 YAEP Academy session on Sunday, April 15th to provide information and orientation on traveling and living in China. Jason Bautista Pejay, one of our 2018 Youth Ambassadors attended today's committee meeting and reported on the dates the YA's will travel to Chengdu. Jason also inquired on how to apply to attend the Chengdu Youth Music Festival to be held in July. Jason, who plays the Cello, has information on a mariachi group from his school that may be interested in joining the festival.

Item 7. Mayor's 5th Annual International Gala – *An Evening in Ennis, Ireland*

Rick Gerrard discussed the upcoming event to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship with Ennis, Ireland. A delegation including the Mayor of Ennis will attend the event which will be held at

The Van Buren 401 W. Van Buren. Dianna reminded everyone that drawing tickets are still available and can be purchased online for \$20 per ticket or 6 for \$100. The grand prize is two roundtrip tickets to one of our ten sister cities and \$3,000 in cash.

Item 8. Chengdu Committee Fundraiser Dumplings & Beer

The Chengdu fundraising event will be held on Thursday May 24th at 5:30 pm at the Dragon Palace 13825 N 32nd Street. Natalie Gerity has worked very hard to obtain several exceptional silent auction items. We encourage all members to support this event. More information on the prizes will be forthcoming.

Item 9. Chengdu Subcommittee Reports

A. Arts & Culture - Rick Gerrard and Zhigang Chen reported on planning to-date on the upcoming arrival of a Chengdu Symphony Orchestra to Phoenix in October 2018. Phoenix Sister Cities will need to determine and secure the venue for a performance such as Phoenix Symphony Hall or the Orpheum Theater. There is a possibility the MIM could be used for a small group performance as well. Rick mentioned the importance of obtaining Chengdu FAO support. Zhigang will continue to explore options.

B. Project Budget Coordinator – Rick mentioned in conjunction with the October Chengdu Symphony delegation, the Committee will need to obtain a sponsor to help defray the costs and support the program. A smaller working group will be convened to work on this project by the beginning of June.

C. Business – Rick briefly discussed a project related to the Sichuan University School of Law that is interested in an exchange program whereby a local Phoenix law firm would function as a clinic location for their students also known as a *practical instruction site*. Chengdu students would function as an intern or law clerk and would get actual law practice experience. Rick will forward the proposal to Huacong Chen to review if their law firm would want to participate.

D. Membership – Tabled

E. Public Relations – Tabled

F. Youth & Education – see above under Youth Ambassador Update

Item 10. DAC Disabilities Awareness Committee –

Mary Jane Trunzo reported the prize money of \$500 awarded to the first place winner from Chengdu at the International Artists with Disabilities Competition was given to the Director in Chengdu in March.

The International Competition of Writers with Disabilities submittal deadline is May 7th.

Item 11. Upcoming Phoenix Sister Cities Events/Projects – Rick reported on the following:

- A.** French Alternative Film & Wine Tasting April 23rd @ 6:30pm Film Bar
- B.** Mayor's International Gala April 26th @ 6pm The Van Buren 401 W Van Buren
- C.** YAEP Academy Graduation Ceremony May 14th @ 6:30pm
- D.** Taiwan Performance for Taiwanese American Heritage Week Arizona May 18th @ 6:30pm
- E.** Chengdu Dumplings & Beer May 24th @ 5:30pm Dragon Palace

Item 12. Call to Public – Dr. Brashears briefly discussed his collaboration with the State Department to accompany a group of young innovative entrepreneurs interested in doing business in China to attend a conference in Beijing in November 2018.

Item 13. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday May 9, 2018.

Lucy Ross motioned to adjourn; Huacong Chen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.