

Phoenix Sister Cities
Calgary Committee Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2018
Armadillo Grill, 1904 E Camelback Rd
Phoenix, AZ

In attendance: John Rice, Heidi Hiester, Aron Charad, Rick Gerrard, Stephen Thompson, Bob Albert, Penny Clarke, Judy Hawley

1. Meeting called to order at 5:59 pm by John Rice.
2. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Stephen and seconded by Aron; the motion passed.
3. Committee Funds: There is currently \$1363.42 available as of the end of February. The Calgary Committee has not increased membership but active members and funds are on par with many other Sister Cities.
4. Youth and Education: Bob and Penny volunteered to speak to students from the pen-pal project at Wilson with 4th and 5th grade classes. They can speak with Bethany at the Youth Ambassador program to set this up. Aron got in touch with a friend in Calgary who is a school principal and liked the idea of the program. Bob also volunteered to meet with teachers when he is in Calgary in August. This would also be a good time to meet with Verne from U-Haul and members of City Council. Judy stated she would be available to attend these meetings as well.

For the Youth Ambassador program, Stephen got the names of 3 former Youth Ambassadors in Calgary who are interested in getting the program started again. He last spoke to them several years ago so someone will need to reach out again to make sure they are still interested. He will send information to Bethany so she can be involved and help out.

5. Committee Activities: The Great Canadian Picnic was discussed at the February meeting. There was a follow up meeting in early March in which members discussed starting speaking to sponsors earlier as well as holding back on spending/costs. Aron will go through the lists from previous years to see if we can get donations from those who donated in the past. Linda Simpson won't be involved next year and Wayne will not be doing set up.
6. Camp Courage: Heidi reached out to the contact in Calgary and at this time there are no campers coming from Calgary for Camp Courage.
7. Canada Day Event: The ideas put forth were to have something on July 1, indoors, low cost and open to as many people as possible. Bob suggested doing something at the Curling Club in Tempe – it's cold and you get to throw rocks and drink. Penny brought up having a Canadian Day skate at a rink. John said he will contact the curling club and asked for volunteers to call ice rinks. Judy agreed to do this. Stephen will call the Tower Plaza to inquire about their ice rink. July 1 is a Sunday so something in the afternoon would be nice for about 20-50 people. Entertainment could be a simple cake and fiddler. John suggested perhaps the MIM might be a good place to hold something. Once we settle on what we are doing, we can invite other groups. There is no plan to involve

sponsors for this event but we could do a 50/50 raffle and/or a silent auction. Penny will look into partnering with the Coyotes.

8. Delegation to visit Calgary: We have not yet heard back from the mayor of Calgary about a trip in August so at this point it is better to postpone the trip. Rick will check in with the Scott Deederly, who is/was the senior advisor for the mayor of Calgary. People in Calgary city government have been very difficult to get in touch with. In Phoenix, Mayor Stanton is planning a run for Congress and so he is unlikely to be available to lead a delegation. We could look into a trip to Calgary in the late spring/early summer of 2019, perhaps June.

Stephen brought up that you need plenty of time and support and people for a trip like this to be successful. You need to get time to get businesses on board and to line up budgets and schedules. The Calgary economy is still recovering from the oil price shock of the last few years so there will have to be a business development aspect to the trip to get Calgary city government behind it. A lot of people in Calgary government have said they want to be involved and it's a great idea but are stretched too thin to personally participate. We are still proceeding with the idea to start a small citizen's group in Calgary that is run with volunteers and hope to bring the City of Calgary a group that is ready to support. Only one paid official needs to be present at the meetings.

9. City of Calgary Sister Cities updates:
 - a) The mayor's gala this year will be an evening in Ennis Ireland. Tickets to the gala are now on sale and one person who attends will receive a real emerald. Reservations are required by April 18. The gala is on April 26.
 - b) The French film festival is coming up with wine tastings and screenings one day each in April, May in June.
 - c) There is a Chinese dumplings and beer fund raiser coming up at the end of May.
 - d) Rick gave a brief recap on the Cheng Du trip. About 30 people came and had a wonderful time. Arizona Office of Tourism was on the trip along with the EXOS training professional athletes who met with local gym, etc. They also got to see some red pandas. There is talk of getting a red panda for the Phoenix zoo.
10. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at the Armadillo Grill.
11. Call to public:
12. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm