



# PHOENIX Sister Cities

Discovery Changes Everything.

**CHENGDU COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 10, 2017  
Siu Wok Chinese Buffet  
2801 North Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004**

**Committee Members & Public Present:**

William Brashears  
Natalya Brown  
Huacong Chen

Zhigang Chen  
Chris Johnson  
Natalie Gerity

Lucy Ross  
Mary Jane Trunzo  
Allan Yang

**Staff Present:**

Rick Gerrard

**Item 1. Call to Order**

Vice- Chairman Allan Yang called the meeting to order at 6:13 PM.

**Item 2. Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests**

All attendees were introduced. Dr. William Brashears took the opportunity to discuss the State Department's entrepreneurship trip in December and their plans to expand. Dr. Brashears hopes to have a 30-day exchange at a company.

**Item 3. Approval of November 8, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Huacong Chen motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Lucy Ross seconded the motion which passed.

**Item 4. Recap of Chengdu Booth @ "Skate It Forward" CitySkate Holiday Ice Rink Dec 13<sup>th</sup>**

Rick reported on the success of the Skate It Forward charity event. Eight of the eleven PSC committees participated. There was a huge turnout of skaters for this charity night with \$10 from each ticket purchased donated to PSC. Each committee will get \$100 to \$150 from event. Combined with Chengdu gift items sold, the total amount raised for the Chengdu Committee is estimated at about \$200.

**Item 5. Dujiangyan Education Delegation Trip to Phoenix Feb 2018**

Allan Yang reported on the Dujiangyan Education Bureau Delegation scheduled to arrive in Feb. 2018. The delegation is expected to stay one – two days in Phoenix. The delegation goals are to learn about elementary and middle school education policy regarding literacy encouragement. In China, parents do not have to pay public education, so whatever policies are adopted will need to have financial support. They would like to learn about the funding system that supports public education in the US. The arrival dates have not been finalized yet and are pending Visa approval. ASU Prep, ALP, and Gompers are options for site visits.

**Item 6. Chinese Cultural & Cuisine Festival Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

Rick Gerrard reported on the progress of the Festival. The Chengdu Committee is the hosting the festival

this year. Huacong will set up a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the booth. Goal is to have more people at the booth and to have shorter shifts and to reach out to ASU students, Arizona Language Preparatory (ALP) students and parents. The Chinese Week banquet will be on Saturday Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at the Great Wall Restaurant. Cost is \$50 per person.

#### **Item 7. Chengdu Subcommittee Reports**

**A. Art & Culture** - Mr. Zhigang Chen reported on progress to date for the Chengdu Symphony Orchestra of 50 members plans to perform in Phoenix in October 2018. PSC would be required to send a Letter of Invitation as soon as possible. The arrangement is that Chengdu will cover their own travel, lodging, and transportation expenses. PSC would be responsible for finding the venue, covering the venue expenses and in turn will retain all ticket revenues. PSC will need to promote ticket sales sufficient to offset expenses. Rick will inform the Chengdu Foreign Affairs Office (FAO) of the interest in the Chengdu Symphony performing in the U.S. after the Symphony finalizes their decision.

**B. Project Budget Coordinator** – Rick repeated the March 15th deadline for submitting events/programs for FY209

**C. Business** – Rick reported on several companies traveling with the outbound Anniversary delegation to Chengdu including EXOS, the Arizona Office of Tourism, and possibly U-Haul. Twenty people have already signed up for the trip. Vice Mayor Laura Pastore will be the city representative for the delegation.

**D. Membership** – Request to update membership renewals.

**E. Public Relations** - Tabled.

**F. Youth & Education** – Rick reported the application process for YAEP is still open. Decisions on the new youth ambassadors will be made in February with training starting in March.

**Item 8. DAC Disabilities Awareness Committee** – Mary Jane Trunzo reported that Gompers and Ronald McDonald House in addition to Phoenix Children's Hospital are recipients of the teddy bears and books. DAC still have bears that require people to sponsor (\$25 per bear, all tax deductible). So far, only 24 have been sold and we need to sell 50 more. If not, then the fundraising program will have to end. Chengdu won an art award and there will be an award ceremony during the delegation trip. As a fundraiser for DAC, selling 2018 calendars with artwork from art competitions. The poetry competition will be decided in June – official invitations to Chengdu will be sent soon.

#### **Item 9. Upcoming Phoenix Sister Cities Events/Projects**

Rick reported on the following:

**A.** Il Giro Di Phoenix – Catania Scavenger Hunt & Car Rally Jan 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8AM

**B.** Great Canadian Picnic Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. will have a Canadian Country Music Group and a Mountie

**C.** Chinese Cultural & Cuisine Festival Margaret T. Hance Park on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>

**D.** Chinese Banquet will be held on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> at the Great Wall Restaurant @ 6:30 PM

**E.** Chengdu Outbound Delegation March 17<sup>th</sup> – March 18<sup>th</sup> (See Item 7C above)

**F.** Chengdu Fundraiser **Dumplings & Beer** will be held April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30PM - Iron Chef Restaurant

**G.** Calgary Outbound delegation is planned for August with 4 days in Calgary, potential train trip through the Canadian Rockies with wine tasting and a few days in Vancouver. More details to follow.

**Item 10. Call to Public** – None

#### **Item 13. Adjournment**

Lucy Ross motioned to adjourn; Natalie Gerity seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.