



**PHOENIX SISTER CITIES
ENNIS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

February 21, 2018

Half Moon Sports Grill | 2121 E. Highland Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Committee Members Present

Mary Hill-Connor, Chair
Claire Haines, Vice Chair
Annemarie Belter, YAEP Liaison
Veronica Castro, Member
Hayley Ramirez, Member & YA
Kiana Guarino, Member & YA
Rich Guarino, Member
Ruth Wilson, Member
Bob Crossley, Member

Committee Members Absent

Cameron Gardner, Member

Staff Present

Rita Marko, City of Phoenix
Alex Bernard, City of Phoenix intern
Caroline Paul, City of Phoenix intern

Public

N/A

Item 1 – Call to Order & Introductions

Mary called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

We all went around and introduced ourselves as there were a few new people.

Item 2 – Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Veronica Castro motioned and Claire Haines seconded for the approval of the January 2018 minutes.

Item 3 – Treasurer’s Report (Mary Hill-Connor)

Mary reviewed the December and January financial reports. The Ennis Committee made \$177.50 through the City Skate event and the Ennis booth at City Skate made \$37.28.

Item 4 – YAEP Update (Annemarie Belter & Rita Marko)

Annemarie Belter discussed the applications and interviews. 55 students applied this year for the Youth Ambassador program. 26 new YA's were chosen. 3 girls were chosen to go to Ireland. The announcement ceremony is Friday, February 23 at City Hall.

Discussed the importance of volunteering to 2017 YA's for sessions, etc.

Item 5 – Guest Speaker

We were pleased to have Dr. Richard Guarino provide us with a talk on the Benefits of Chiropractic Care.

Item 6 – Committee Events (Mary Hill Connor)

- 1) St. Patrick's Day booth at Margaret T. Hance Park. Need volunteers for the day. Mary to send out an invitation. Need from 8:30 a.m. set up to 6:00 p.m. breakdown. 2 hour windows for volunteering. New YAs and families will also be included. \$50 is needed for the booth. Annemarie Belter motioned for approval of the \$50 and Veronica Castro seconded. All approved.
- 2) Mary is also taking part in the Four Peaks Irish Arts Festival at the MIM. A table will be set up there both Saturday and Sunday (March 17 & 18). You are welcome to volunteer for that if you are interested.
- 3) Ennis delegation visit. 14 people are registered to come including the Mayor of Clare, the Mayor of Ennis and some Council people. They have requested some specific visits (tourism, health services, waste water management, housing, etc.) while in Phoenix and Rita Marko is working on setting those up. They would also like to include a trip to the Grand Canyon and a day for shopping.

April 24th is the reception at the ICC with all the delegates. Mary will send out more information on this.

April 25th may be the trip to the Grand Canyon which they would do on their own.

April 26th is the Gala in the evening.

There is a possibility of a reception at Delia Garcia's and Kelly Stoke's some time during their trip. Delia Garcia is the one who helped establish the urgent care room at Cliffs of Moher.

The Executive Committee has approved the budget related to the delegation. \$3000 for 20 admissions to the Gala. The organization will match up to \$2500 to support other expenses. Donations are also being accepted for this visit.

May need volunteers to drive the delegates around while they are here. Renting 1-2 vans.

Ideas for delegation gifts and gifts for the Mayors:

- The Phoenix Past, Present and Future book
- Rita was going to look into the wood bowl

Item 7 – Mayor’s Gala – April 26th (Mary Hill Connor)

The gala this year is being revamped. New location is The Van Buren with the idea to set it up as pub style. There will not be a sit down dinner. There will be heavy hors d’oeuvres. The cost is \$150 per ticket. Drawing tickets are also being sold – winner receives 2 round trip economy airfare tickets to a sister city location and \$3000 cash. Save the date to go out next week. Dr. Michael M. Crow is this year’s Global Citizen Award recipient.

Item 8 – Phoenix Sister Cities Update (Rita Marko)

Matsuri Festival on February 24 & 25

Evening in Prague – March 17 in Memorial Hall at Steele Indian School Park. Tickets are \$30.

Item 10 – Adjournment (Mary Hill Connor)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. Next meeting to be held March 21st at 6pm hopefully at new venue – The Newton. (Rita Marko will confirm prior to the meeting.)