

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)
May 14, 2024
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Leslie Patton called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Members Present: Leslie Patton, Angelo Brown, James Auld, Neil Brunetz and Sheb True

Staff Liaison Present: James Friedrich

Council Liaison Absent: Madelyn Orochena

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the March 20, 2024 special called meeting minutes

Motion by Mr. True to approve the March 20, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 5-0.

3. Old Business

A. Officer Elections

Mr. Friedrich explained the procedure of nominating or volunteering for the officer positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Ms. Patton volunteered to continue her tenure as Chair. Motion by Mr. Brunetz to elect Leslie Patton as Chair of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Brown volunteered to continue his tenure as Vice Chair. Motion by Mr. Brunetz to elect Mr. Brown as Vice Chair of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Friedrich volunteered to continue his tenure as Secretary. Motion by Mr. True to elect Mr. Friedrich as Secretary of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 5-0.

B. Updates from March 25, 2024 Council work session meeting

- Bylaws
- Montepulciano

Mr. Friedrich shared that Mayor and Council had no suggestions or reservations related to the proposed amendments to the KSCC Bylaws. They were ratified via Resolution 2024-14, 2024. Mr. Friedrich said he would start advertising for new members now that the pool of eligible candidates has broadened the membership criteria for the art and

economic development components.

Mr. Friedrich updated Mayor and Council about the progress the commission made in partnering with Montepulciano. He informed them of the introduction call that was held between the commission and representatives from Montepulciano in February 2024. Both cities have a similar vision, goals, and program ideas centered around cultural exchanges, education, and economic development. The potential for Mayor Easterling and Montepulciano's mayor to do a one-on-one introduction call was also discussed. The Mayor and Council had no reservations or concerns about pursuing a partnership with Montepulciano.

4. New Business

A. Updates from Montepulciano

Mr. True shared updates with the commissioners. First, there are currently 16 KSU students in Montepulciano until the end of May. They are actively working with business leaders, community development leaders, educators and artists to strengthen connections and resources for the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission. Mr. True mentioned the students would be happy to provide a formal update to the commissioners upon their return. Mr. True spoke to Montepulciano's Deputy Mayor who informed him that the introduction call between the cities' two mayors will need to be delayed until after their general election in mid-June. The partnership between Montepulciano and Kennesaw will not be affected, regardless of which mayor wins the general election.

5. Staff Comment

Mr. Friedrich mentioned that he is looking at preliminary travel costs for airfare and hotels in the event that the City formally signs the Sister City Memorandum of Understanding with Montepulciano in Fiscal Year 2025.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Brown to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion approved unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 PM.