

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
June 13, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Mr. Brown called the meeting of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission to order at 6:06pm

Members Present: Angelo Brown, James Auld, Neil Brunetz and Travice Obas

Members Absent: Leslie Patton, Sheb True

Staff Present: James Friedrich

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of May 9, 2023 Special Called Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Mr. Brunetz to approve the May 9, 2023 special called meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Obas. Vote taken, motion approved 4-0-2 (Ms. Patton and Mr. True were absent).

3. Financial Report

4. Old Business

A. Discuss Membership Requirements in Bylaws.

At last month's meeting, the members asked Mr. Friedrich to follow up with Mr. Johnson to make sure there was no one else on his staff that could fill his vacancy as required by the Commission's bylaws. Mr. Friedrich did so and confirmed that Mr. Johnson had no one else on his staff that could fill his vacancy. Mr. Friedrich proposed amending the Board of Commissioners section of their bylaws to better reflect the needs of the Commission. Instead of having a member from the Cobb Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development team, Mr. Friedrich suggested having a member from either the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA) or the Kennesaw Downtown Merchants Association (KDMA). After further discussion, the members agreed that the KBA would be a good alternative membership requirement. Before making the official change in the bylaws, however, the members decided it would be best to do some canvassing to see if there are active KBA members that would be willing to join the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission. Ms. Obas is a current member of KBA and said she could do some networking at events to gauge interest. Mr. Friedrich said he would reach out to the Economic Development Department staff to see if they had a directory or knew of any active KBA members that would be a good fit. Mr Friedrich also explained that from a procedural perspective, Mayor and Council would have to ratify the amended bylaws once the membership changes are made.

5. New Business

A. Discuss Reaching Out to New Potential Sister City.

Mr. Friedrich informed the Commission that a few days after the Commission met last month, he received an email with a letter attached from the Mayor's office of Siena, Italy. The Mayor of Siena was grateful that the KSCC reached out. However, his term in office is ending and a new Mayor will be coming in. Mr. Friedrich asked the Commission if we needed to restrategize our approach before reaching out to a new potential city. It was Mr. Friedrich's understanding that the Commission would prefer an organic partnership through contacts in the City's schools, businesses, or personal relationships. The members agreed and are still interested in pursuing an organic approach, but the criteria focusing on economic development may need to be scaled back. Mr. Friedrich said he would see how much property is available in Kennesaw proper for any potential foreign business development. Mr. Friedrich reminded the members that we have enough funds in our budget to join Sister Cities International (SCI), which has their own pairing program. Mr. Brown said he would do some research to see what makes up the criteria for the SCI pairing program.

6. Staff Comment

7. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Obas to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion approved 4-0-2 (Ms. Patton and Mr. True were absent). The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.