

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
July 11, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Patton called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Members Present: Leslie Patton, Sheb True, Travice Obas and James Auld

Members Absent: Neil Brunetz and Angelo Brown

Staff Present: James Friedrich

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Mr. True to approve the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-2 (Mr. Brunetz and Mr. Brown were absent).

3. Financial Report

4. Old Business

A. Updates to Membership Bylaws

Mr. Friedrich and Ms. Obas briefed the members on the progress made from last month's meeting regarding the potential recruitment of a new economic development-related member. A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Friedrich and Ms. Obas met with Tanyel Aviles, Business Recruitment and Retention Manager for the City of Kennesaw. She advised that the Kennesaw Business Association may not be the best resource to meet the needs of the Sister Cities Commission. Instead, she recommended reaching out to Cobb County Economic Development or even the Georgia Department of Economic Development. After further conversation with the members, it may be better to bring other City Economic Development staff back in a different capacity other than strictly financing purposes. Additionally, the commission could amend the bylaws to have the seventh member be another citizen at large. Mr. Friedrich stated he would confirm with staff before creating an agenda item to officially amend the bylaws.

B. Updates regarding Sister Cities International (SCI) Pairing Program

At last month's meeting, the members discussed using the \$800 allocated in the budget to join Sister Cities International (SCI). In turn, this would allow the Commission to utilize their pairing program. Mr. Friedrich read through the list of countries currently looking for a sister city and said he would share the link and required form from SCI with the rest of the members via email. Before moving past the idea of finding a sister city organically, Mr. True said he would again like to advocate for the idea of pairing with Montepulciano, Italy. Based on the existing cultural and educational components,

Mr. True feels this would be the best organic option to find a city. Mr. Auld suggested it could be beneficial to start with SCI pairing program and then reach out to Montepulciano if the pairing process takes too long or does not meet the needs of the Commission. Mr. Friedrich said he could create a discussion only item for the next Mayor and Council work session in relation to using economic development as a selection criterion.

5. New Business

6. Staff Comment

Mr. Friedrich informed the members that City staff would be hosting a parliamentary procedure course for the purpose of better familiarizing board members about the ins and outs of running a meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. Mr. Friedrich told them to be on the lookout for an email from the City Clerk to determine the exact date, time, and location.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Auld to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Obas. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-2 (Mr. Brunetz and Mr. Brown were absent). The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.