Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission
Meeting Agenda
September 12, 2023 6:00 PM
City Hall Training Room

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1. **Call to Order / Roll Call**
2. **Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
   A. Approval of August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. **Financial Report**
4. **Old Business**
5. **New Business**
   A. Montepulciano Presentation: Dr. Tyler Reinagel, KSU Associate Vice President for Economic Development.

   B. Selection of Sister City: Authorization to Begin Introductions
6. **Staff Comment**
7. **Adjourn**

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
August 8, 2023
6:00 PM

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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Patton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
Members Present: Leslie Patton, Angelo Brown, Neil Brunetz and James Auld
Members Absent: Sheb True
Staff Present: James Friedrich

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of July 11, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion by Mr. Brown to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by James Auld. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. True was absent).

3. Financial Report

4. Old Business

A. Updates to member bylaws.

Mr. Friedrich informed the commissioners that Travice Obas recently resigned from the Kennesaw Art and Culture Commission (KACC). Because she was the KACC liaison for KSCC, she had to resign by default. This leaves two vacancies in the KSCC. Since it may be difficult to fill positions related to the current missing membership components of economic development and art/culture, Mr. Friedrich asked the commissioners how they would feel about having two staff members fill those positions instead of outside volunteers. It should be noted that these staff members would not have voting rights and would only offer their expert opinions to the commission. The commissioners stated they would gladly accept the additional staff members if they were willing to participate.

B. Updates to Sister City selection.

Mr. Friedrich shared that he was looking at last year's KSCC minutes and realized the commission had not made significant progress on implementing a partnership. As such, it was his opinion that the commission should select Montepulciano since there is already a strong relationship through Kennesaw State University (KSU). Mr. Friedrich met briefly with Sheb the week prior and he was adamant that Montepulciano would be a great choice for the City of Kennesaw. It was Mr. Friedrich's observation that the economic development criteria and population criteria have been overly scrutinized by the commissioners. By keeping an open mind and remaining somewhat flexible with the selection criteria, the commission would have a better chance at finding a sister city.

Mr. Brunetz stated that he is not confident that Montepulciano meets the economic development criteria. Sheb previously mentioned to Mr. Friedrich that KSU already has their economic development team working to find Italian businesses in the Atlanta metro area. Additionally, Sheb said he could get his team to make a presentation to be shared at the September meeting to alleviate any doubts.

Ms. Patton would like to see whether or not the Sister Cities International (SCI) pairing program would still be doable. According to Mr. Brown, the website is not very user-friendly and it is difficult to find information on the overall process and timeframe. Mr. Brown said he would try to call someone at SCI to get some answers about what the pairing process looks like. Ultimately, Mr. Friedrich would like to have the commissioners vote to begin the selection process for Montepulciano at the September meeting.

5. New Business

6. Staff Comment

Mr. Friedrich reminded the commissioners that the City will be hosting the “Practices for Successful Meetings” class presented by the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The class will be held Friday, August 18th in the Kennesaw City Hall – Council Chambers. There will be two sessions offered: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The sessions will cover how to run effective and efficient meetings through tools such as Robert’s Rules of Order, agenda setting, etc. Ms. Patton said she would be attending the afternoon session if anyone else would like to join her.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Brunetz to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. True was absent). The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.