

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Training Room
September 12, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Members present: Angelo Brown, James Auld, Neil Brunetz and Leslie Patton (arrived at 6:12 P.M.)

Members absent: Sheb True

Staff present: Luke Howe and James Friedrich

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of August 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Brunetz to approve the August 8, 2023 minutes, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. True was absent).

3. Financial Report

4. Old Business

5. New Business

A. Montepulciano Presentation: Dr. Tyler Reinagel, KSU Associate Vice President for Economic Development.

Tyler Reinagel, KSU Associate Vice President for Economic Development, and Ken Hill, Montepulciano Educational Site Manager provided a presentation on the benefits of a potential sister city partnership between Kennesaw and Montepulciano, Italy. Mr. Reinagel covered educational and cultural components with an emphasis on economic development. Mr. Hill was able to provide an understanding of the programs and make-up of the residents of Montepulciano. Such topics included primary and secondary education, sports teams, and what percentage of the population spoke English. All questions by the members were answered thoroughly.

B. Selection of Sister City: Authorization to Begin Introductions

With no further discussion about the potential partnership, a motion was made and seconded to begin the process of reaching out to Montepulciano to gauge interest in pursuing a sister city partnership. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. True was absent). Mr. Friedrich said he would reach out to Mr. True this week to discuss the best way to reach out to Montepulciano. There was also discussion about the next steps if Montepulciano is receptive to our proposal. There would need to be discussions between Kennesaw and Montepulciano to go over shared goals and interests. Then, a

program would need to be developed to meet those goals. Mr. Hill suggested that the most effective programs would likely be art and education related. Eventually, the sister city partnership would be solidified through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Auld mentioned his high school class will be in the Tuscany Province in June 2024. This could be an opportune time to coordinate the MOU between the two cities.

6. Staff Comment

7. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Patton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion passed 4-0-1 (Mr. True was absent). Meeting adjourned at 6:43 P.M.