

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
October 17, 2023
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Patton called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

Members Absent: Angelo Brown

Staff Present: James Friedrich

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of September 12, 2023 meeting minutes

Motion by Ms. Patton to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Auld. Vote taken, motion carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Brown was absent).

3. Financial Report

4. Old Business

Ms. Patton wanted to confirm Montepulciano was aware the City would like to reach out to them. Mr. True said he had been in touch with Montepulciano's Deputy Mayor since last month's meeting and he confirmed they were on board and open to a potential partnership pending legal review. Mr. True informed the Montepulciano staff to be on the look out for a letter of introduction from the City.

5. New Business

A. Authorize use of funds for Sister Cities International membership

With the soft confirmation of Montepulciano's interest, Mr. Friedrich asked the Commission if it was worth activating a membership with Sister Cities International. After a brief discussion, the Commission agreed to postpone that item to a later meeting date.

B. Discuss communication logistics and program development

In preparation of Montepulciano's interest, Mr. Friedrich thought it would be prudent to start considering the logistics of building communications and program ideas. The Commission agreed that if Montepulciano has reciprocal interest in a sister city partnership with Kennesaw then we will look to set up a virtual meeting of introduction to include all the Commission members and whatever staff Montepulciano deems necessary. Generally speaking, other communications and interactions via email can be funneled between Mr. Friedrich and the rest of the Commission. Programs for consideration will focus on parallel groups between Kennesaw and Montepulciano.

Elementary, middle and high schools in the Kennesaw community could form a pen pal program with primary and secondary schools in Montepulciano. Youth sports programs (primarily focused around soccer) could be another shared connection between the two cities. Clubs and organizations such as the North Cobb Rotary Club and Cobb Chamber of Commerce could build partnerships between equivalent clubs and organizations in Montepulciano. There is also a possibility of expanding the partnership to other cities such as Elijay and Blue Ridge which have a large agritourism industry. Lastly, the partnership between the government staff in Kennesaw and Montepulciano could focus on helping each other solve issues of shared problems in each community.

6. Public Comment

7. Staff Comment

8. Adjourn

Motion by Ms. Patton to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brunetz. Vote taken, motion carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Brown was absent). Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.