



**Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission
Meeting Agenda
January 16, 2024 6:00 PM
City Hall Conference Room**

- 1. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - A. Approval of the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes.
- 3. Old Business**
 - A. Updates and next steps for Montepulciano.
- 4. New Business**
 - A. 2024 Officer Elections: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
- 5. Staff Comment**
- 6. Adjourn**

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 Eljay 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.



Comune di Montepulciano

(Provincia di Siena)

Montepulciano, 22 December 2023

To the kind attention of the Mayor of Kennesaw, GA

Derek Easterling

2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue

Kennesaw, GA 30144

USA

Dear Mayor Easterling,

it is with great enthusiasm that I contact you in response to your kind request for twinning between our two cities. It is an honor and a privilege for me, as Mayor of Montepulciano, to welcome this proposal which aims to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our communities.

Montepulciano is a town rich in history, beauty and tradition, with its charming medieval streets, Renaissance architecture, rich food and wine culture and the warm welcome of its people. The presence of a local branch of Kennesaw University has represented a further enrichment of our social and cultural fabric for some years now. I think it is particularly significant, and in keeping with our international vocation and focus on culture and the transmission of knowledge, that such a relevant university institution is the hub around which to build this international twinning.

As you know, Montepulciano has, for several years now, been home to a branch of Kennesaw State University, which supported the restoration of Montepulciano Fort and created its first university campus outside the United States there. During this time, we have had the pleasure of hosting

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Comune di Montepulciano (Provincia di Siena)

lecturers and students of the university, forging friendships and partnerships in more than one project, strengthening the ties between the campus and our town through education, culture and academic exchange.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to collaborate and strengthen the bond between Kennesaw and Montepulciano. We share the intention to embark upon a positive journey to formalize this twinning, working together to create new opportunities for cultural, economic and educational exchange between our communities.

Our administration is ready to devote resources and efforts to ensuring the success of this twinning, with the goal of creating a dynamic and beneficial partnership for both our communities. We are committed to actively engaging our residents, local institutions and civil organizations to make this twinning meaningful and beneficial for all.

Together, we can cultivate a lasting partnership that promotes the exchange of ideas, mutual understanding and shared prosperity of Kennesaw and Montepulciano, in the name of friendship between the United States and Italy.

In conclusion, in order to implement this opportunity you have presented, I am able to confirm that I have empowered the municipal offices to identify the most appropriate technical and participatory path to achieve this important goal for our communities.

Thanking you for your attention and availability, I look forward to talking to you more and coordinating our efforts. Best wishes for a peaceful Christmas.

The Mayor
Michele Angiolini

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