

**Commissioners**

Angelo Brown
Neil Brunetz
James Auld
Sheb True
Leslie Patton

**Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission
Meeting Agenda
February 13, 2024 6:00 PM
City Hall Conference Room**

- 1. Call to Order / Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**
 - A. Approval of the January 16, 2024 special called meeting minutes.
- 3. Old Business**
 - A. Finalize talking points for the February 27, 2024 virtual meeting with Montepulciano.
- 4. New Business**
- 5. Staff Comment**
- 6. Adjourn**

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
January 16, 2024
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Patton called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

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

Members Absent: Angelo Brown

Staff Liaison Present: James Friedrich

Council Liaison Present: Madelyn Orochena

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion by Ms. Patton to approve the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. True. Vote taken, motion carried 3-0-2 (Mr. Brown and Mr. Brunetz were absent).

3. Old Business

A. Updates and next steps for Montepulciano.

Mr. Brunetz joined the meeting at 6:05 PM. Mr. Friedrich informed the members that he received a letter back from Montepulciano's mayor, Michele Angiolini, expressing his excitement and interest in pursuing a twin city partnership with the City of Kennesaw. Mr. True advised sending a letter to Mayor Angiolini acknowledging that their letter was received. Mr. Friedrich and Mr. Brunetz also met with Ken Hill last week, who explained that business really slows down from October through December in Montepulciano which is why their response process was delayed. Per the conversation with Mr. Hill, Mr. Friedrich and Mr. Brunetz explained to the other members that next steps should include two virtual meetings for introduction. The first meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 27th at 10:00 AM, will be between the Sister Cities Commission and Montepulciano staff. During this meeting, the two parties can discuss shared goals and programs that would be mutually beneficial. As staff liaison, Mr. Friedrich can then brief Mayor Easterling on the outcome and Mr. True or Mr. Hill can help coordinate a translated virtual meeting between Mayor Easterling and Mayor Angiolini. Mr. Friedrich asked the members to start thinking about programs to propose to Montepulciano staff during their first virtual meeting. A K-12 pen pal program through local schools could be easy and impactful. Swapping events and traditions like barrel racing, Christmas markets, and including wines from Montepulciano in the KDDA's Beer Fest event are other practical program ideas. Mr. Friedrich said he would check Sister Cities International and share information with the other members about their program guides and resources.

4. New Business

A. 2024 Officer Elections: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

No action taken. This item will be postponed to the February 13, 2024 meeting.

5. Staff Comment

6. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Auld to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brunetz. Vote taken, motion carried 4-0-1 (Mr. Brown was absent). Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.