

MINUTES OF KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Conference Room
February 13, 2024
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Ms. Patton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Leslie Patton, Sheb True and Neil Brunetz

Members Absent: Angelo Brown and Jame Auld

Staff Present: James Friedrich

Council Present: Madelyn Orochena

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the January 16, 2024 special called meeting minutes.

Motion by Mr. Brunetz to approve the January 16, 2024 special called meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. True. Vote taken, motion passed 3-0-2 (Mr. Brown and Mr. Auld were absent).

3. Old Business

Discussion was held to add the 2024 Officer Election to the agenda. Ms. Patton suggested postponing the item to the regular March meeting. No action was taken.

A. Finalize talking points for the February 27, 2024 virtual meeting with Montepulciano.

Mr. True suggested having Ken Hill, Senior Lecturer of Management at KSU, attend the February 27 virtual meeting. Mr. Hill has been corresponding with staff in Montepulciano to get this virtual meeting set up. Mr. True also suggested creating an agenda to include a general introduction of staff, a short introduction about the City itself, the commission's goals, discussion of potential program ideas and next steps. Logistically, Mr. Hill could kick off the introductions, Mr. Friedrich could provide the information about Kennesaw, Ms. Patton could talk about our goals, other members and staff could pitch ideas for programming focused on education, culture, and economic development. Mr. True mentioned having Mr. Friedrich and Mr. Hill meet sometime next week with a couple of key members of Mayor Angiolini's staff to discuss the parameters of the February 27 meeting as well as get input from Montepulciano on setting the agenda. Mr. Friedrich said he would get a draft agenda built before he meets with Mr. Hill next week.

Other topics of discussion included Montepulciano's election season and how that could impact formal signings and meetings. Both cities should be mindful that a virtual signing may be more fiscally manageable and easier to schedule. Ms. Patton suggested

reaching out to Total Wine in Kennesaw to see if they would be interested in highlighting wine from Montepulciano as a potential economic program. The KDDA is also looking at rebranding their Beer and Wine Festival in September 2024 so having imported bottles of Montepulciano at one of the booths would be worth looking into as well. Mr. True said the President of Montepulciano's Wine Consortium could even create a custom Kennesaw logo for the wine bottles. There is also potential to collaborate with KSU's art program. Mr. True said he would look into who distributes wine to bars and restaurants in Kennesaw.

4. New Business

5. Staff Comment

Mr. Friedrich said he would like to get in front of Mayor and Council to update the KSCC bylaws' membership requirements. The KSCC would have to vote to approve the amended bylaws, and then they would be voted on by Mayor and Council. This would also be a good time to bring Mayor and Council up to speed on the transpiring events so far with Montepulciano.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Mr. Brunetz to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. True. Vote taken, motion passed 3-0-2 (Mr. Brown and Mr. Auld were absent). Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.