

# City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers  
100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755*



## Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, January 23, 2020**

**4:00 PM**

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

**Sister Cities Advisory Board**

## Roll Call

**Present** 6 - Chair Michael Ballard, Vice Chair Pamela Gene Benton, Board Member Candace Hays, Board Member Hoyt Hamilton, Board Member Sallie Parks, and Board Member Lucas Geraldi-Smith

**Also Present** – Christopher Hubbard – Cultural Affairs Coordinator, Patricia O. Sullivan - Board Reporter

Awaiting approval

### 1. Call To Order

*The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. at the Main Library.*

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the November 7, 2019 Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting minutes.

**Member Parks moved to approve minutes of the November 7, 2019 Sister Cities Advisory Board Special meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

**3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda:** None.

### 4. New Business Items

4.1 Review the 2020 Sister Cities Cultural Exchange student roster.

*Cultural Affairs Coordinator Christopher Hubbard said of the many qualified applicants interviewed for the 2020 Sister Cities Cultural Exchange visit to Nagano, the committee chose 4 students to participate.*

4.2 Discuss potential program expansion for Nagano and Bourges Sister Cities programs.

City staff is seeking discussion on ways to expand program offerings for the City's Sister Cities program partnerships with Nagano, Japan and Bourges, France.

*Mr. Hubbard said recommendations included educational, cultural, fine arts, music, culinary arts, and sustainability programming. The Honorary French Consul visited City offices and reported residents grew a large amount of produce in Bourges' city center on a series of island gardens in the canals.*

*Support was expressed for expanded programming with comments that chefs teaching at PTEC (Pinellas Technical College) and the Dunedin*

*Cultural Center would welcome opportunities to showcase their skills. It was suggested that students could intern at Monin and other French companies and travel to Bourges to improve their French language skills.*

*Mr. Hubbard said Monin had expressed interest in representing the local business community on the Sister Cities Board.*

#### 4.3 Election of Officers

**Member Hamilton moved to reappoint Michael Ballard as Chair and Pam Benton as Vice Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

### **5. Old Business Items**

#### **5.1 Review an update on the repeal of Sister Cities relationships with Kalamaria, Greece and Wyong, NSW, Australia.**

*On November 7, 2019, the Sister Cities Advisory Board unanimously voted to repeal the City's inactive Sister Cities relationships with Kalamaria, Greece and Wyong, NSW, Australia. City staff sent notice to each city informing them of the City of Clearwater's intent to repeal the relationship.*

*Mr. Hubbard said the City had no response to its initiation of the process to repeal these Sister Cities relationships.*

#### **5.2 Review a report of the High School Exchange from Nagano for December 6-14, 2019.**

*Mr. Hubbard said High School exchange students from Nagano had a nice, well organized visit which focused on education and did not include time at Disney World. He requested members to encourage all interested home stay families to complete applications as staff had trouble finding home stay families for some students.*

### **6. Director's Report**

#### **6.1 Clearwater Sister Cities Inc. President's report**

*Board Member/CSCI President Hays said CSCI (Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc.) had participated in the Festival of Trees. She said CSCI's annual membership social was scheduled for January 26, 2020. She said interviews of 31 applicants for this year's Young Ambassador trip begin tomorrow. She said CSCI was excited about new opportunities with the new Sister Cities relationship with Bourges. She suggested the Young Ambassadors and High School Cultural Exchange alternate their annual trips to Japan and France so that one group travels to each country each year.*

*It was suggested CSCI may attract new members interested in France.*

*Mr. Hubbard said a fine arts appraiser was assessing the value of City artifacts from Japan for insurance before they are moved to the Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center. Staff will provide information re donations to Nagano City following Typhoon Hagibis.*

*As the City had received no requests from Nagano for its annual Lantern Festival, it was indicated this year's festival may have been cancelled.*

## **7. Board Members to be Heard**

*Member Parks suggested opening student orientation sessions to residents interested in Japanese culture.*

*To familiarize Clearwater residents with Sister Cities programs, Member Benton recommended scheduling presentations by teachers returning from Japan and inviting CSCI members and the public to attend.*

## **8. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.*

Attest:

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Chair - Sister Cities Advisory Board

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Board Reporter