

# City of Clearwater

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



## Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 22, 2021

4:00 PM

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

**Sister Cities Advisory Board**

**Roll Call**

**Present** 5 - Chair Michael Ballard, Vice Chair Pamela Gene Benton, Board Member Candace Hays, Board Member Hoyt Hamilton, and Board Member Lucas Gerald-Smith

**Absent** 2 - Board Member Sallie Parks, and Board Member Michael Brewster

**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 4:05 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 minutes of the January 28, 2021 Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting.

**Member Hamilton moved to approve minutes of the January 28, 2021 Sister Cities Advisory Board 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 an update on the status of the Nagano exchange programs.

Review an update on the status of the 2021/2022 high school, teacher, and official delegation anniversary exchange programs.

*Cultural Affairs Coordinator Christopher Hubbard said he had received an email from Nagano International Relations that included a DVD introduction to Nagano with tourism videos and views of Nagano schools featuring students who had visited Clearwater. The video will be posted on the City website. He was working with students selected for the Sister City exchange to create a reciprocal video for Nagano students and residents.*

*Board Member/CSCI Clearwater Sister Cities, Inc. Representative Hays expressed concern that privacy issues may preclude posting the video on the City's website; Nagano had concerns about privacy on Zoom calls. If Nagano agrees to Clearwater posting the video, she requested that CSCI also be able to post it.*

*In response to a question, Mr. Hubbard said Nagano had not referenced a February visit by Nagano middle school students. The delegation*

*anniversary exchange and student and teacher exchanges had not been scheduled. Summer 2022 exchanges may be possible but COVID restrictions were fluid.*

## **5. Old Business Items**

### **5.1 Review an update on the progress of Sister Cities discussions with Bourges, France.**

*Mr. Hubbard said Bourges, France had responded, indicating interest in the program. As he was unable to schedule the French Consulate to help with translation, he was working with Member Benton to schedule a French teacher's help during a Zoom call. The City Council will need to approve a structured agreement also covering digital and personal exchanges and establishing a theme. While Clearwater's Sister City relationship with Nagano is based on tourism and Education, the basis for Clearwater's relationship with Bourges could be commerce and education; Monin provides the City a direct tie to Bourges.*

### **5.2 Review an update on expanded programs of exchange with Nagano and other online media.**

Review an update on expanded programs of exchange with Nagano including digital student exchange videos and Pen Pal program as well as additional online materials hosted on the Sister Cities webpage.

*Mr. Hubbard said he was working on a video art exchange with Nagano; the Clearwater Arts Alliance will partner with the City. Nagano will send an artist here to reproduce their design for installation on a signal box; Clearwater will send digital art to Nagano to be reproduced for their use.*

*Staff will continue establishing a database of tourism videos of local attractions and cultural exchanges to be hosted on the City's website and accessible by Nagano residents. The City also will post videos from Nagano to familiarize local residents with Clearwater's Sister City. The videos will serve as a great recruitment tool for Sister City exchange participants and host families.*

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

*Member Hays said the Pen Pal exchange had begun; Young Ambassadors had responded to letters from Nagano. She said the City of Safety Harbor had invited CSCI to participate in its month long Japanese cultural event and 4th Friday event; CSCI had provided artifacts to the Safety Harbor Museum. She said about 40 guests attended CSCI's outdoor social, membership and annual meeting in April. She said CSCI was starting to plan an exhibit featuring City and CSCI Japanese artifacts at the Clearwater Historical Museum.*

*In response to a question, Mr. Hubbard said he would provide an updated version of the Young Ambassador scholarship application at the next meeting and confirm the scholarship amounts. He will contact JWB (Juvenile Welfare Board) and other service agencies regarding their qualification process for determining eligibility for financial assistance.*

**7. Board Members to be Heard:** None.

**8. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.*

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Chair - Sister Cities Advisory Board

Attest:

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Board Reporter