

City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)
Sister Cities Committee
Minutes

July 24, 2013 Meeting (approved at the August 26 meeting)

Committee Members: Sue Baxter (Chair) Glenn Gray – (Secretary)
Chloie Watson Joan Mize
Maria Uchytel (Vice-Chair) (Out of town)

Guests: Jenny Strickler, Rafael Castanos, Rene Abella, Dante Reyes, Luvis Solanoy, Mila Reyes, Lynn Morato, Claribel Solanoy, Mila Tudit, Priscilla Ibesate, Joy Carrillo-Magallanes, Mayden Carrillo-Cristobal, Sheila Carillo, Norma Villasis, Victoria Rulda, Luz Maleus, and Rodina Roldar.

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved with addition of 2 items.

2. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved minutes from the June 13, 2013 meeting as amended.

3. Define Sister City Relationship Potential with Kalibo, Philippines

Sue explained the purpose and structure of the Committee and listed Juneau's sister cities. She opened the discussion to the guests. Jenny Strickler, Philippines Honorary Consul for Alaska, gave some background about recent efforts to explore a sister city relationship with Kalibo, Aklan Province, Philippines. She said the recent trade delegation to the Aklan Province brought a letter from Mayor Sanford about a possible sister city relationship, but it was incorrectly addressed. The Vice Governor of Aklan was the host of the trade delegation's visit. She said both the Vice Governor and Kalibo Mayor welcomed a sister city relationship.

Other members of the Juneau Filipino community provided additional information summarized in the following bullets.

- There have already been a number of programs between Juneau and Kalibo that would fit into a sister city relationship: Cultural exchanges such as the dancers in the Juneau 4th of July parade, business trade (visitors and vendors), humanitarian aid during recent natural disasters in Kalibo, and a program to provide elementary schools with laptops.
- The Aklan Vice governor visited Juneau in 2011.
- An Alaskan trade delegation that included Representatives Munoz and Heron visited Aklan in 2012.
- A famous beach is located within a 2-hour drive from Kalibo.
- An international airport serves Kalibo's population of 75,000 people.

Sue passed out some sample documents from Sister Cities International. Glenn summarized his understanding of what would need to be done to complete a sister city agreement: Visits to and from Kalibo by an official delegation (already done), exchange of letters expressing interest in a sister city relationship, resolutions from both city governments, and an in-person signing ceremony.

In answer to a question from Joan about whether there would be interest in establishing a sister city committee in Kalibo, members of Filipino community answered positively. Glenn said that was an important point citing an example of how Juneau's sister city relationship with Vladivostok was strongest when there was a citizen committee on both sides (Vladivostok's city government currently manages its foreign affairs without a citizen committee).

Joan moved that the Sister Cities Committee make a recommendation to Mayor Sanford and the Assembly to establish a sister city relationship with Kalibo. Glenn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Sue will draft a letter from the Juneau Mayor to the Kalibo Mayor formally proposing a sister city relationship.

4. Airport Display

The airport display on our sister cities has been completed and is getting a good response. The airport would like the display changed about every 6 months. The committee agreed to feature the Whitehorse relationship next.

5. Museum History Grant

Sue reported that she turned in the application for the \$1,000 for a history grant, and we should know who is awarded the grant by the end of the month.

6. Student Introductions to Assembly and School Board

Sue reported that we are on agenda for the Assembly September 23 meeting to introduce the new foreign exchange students. Representatives of the YES program have committed to attending. She said she hasn't confirmed a time for introducing the students to the School Board, but she is aiming for the October 15th meeting.

7. Student Community Introduction

Sue said she was aiming for Tuesday, October 22 at Thunder Mountain High School Commons for introductions of the new exchange students to the community.

8. Whitehorse Letter

Glenn reported that he had drafted a letter from the Juneau Mayor to the Whitehorse Mayor to reinstate meetings between the Assembly and City Council. He will make changes suggested by the committee, and Sue will provide the revised draft to Mayor Sanford for his consideration.

9. Sister School Event

Sue reported that students from Nishiokoppe, a sister school to the Juneau School District, will visit Juneau this weekend. She will try to find out if there will be any public events, and if so, invite the committee members.

10. Next Meeting

Monday, August 26th 5:00 in CBJ conference.

* * * End * * *