

Centerville Sister City Committee

Meeting Minutes, November 6, 2018

Members Present: Mike Vacchiano, *Chair*, John Beals, *Council Liaison*, Cynthia Clay, Suzanne Holloway, Phillip McLaughlin, Carolyn Basford, Marilyn Hobak, Mary Pizza, Surinder Jain.

After welcome and attendance, minutes from the September 4, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by the committee.

Committee Officers for 2019: It was proposed and agreed to continue with the current committee positions: Mike as chair, Carolyn as vice-chair, Phil as treasurer. Cynthia Clay will be the secretary starting January 2019.

Old Business: John updated on the efforts to seek a 501.c.3 Tax Exempt organization status for the Sister City Committee. Mike will contact Jonathan Hudson to work on the “appropriate” status approval for the Committee. Emily Schluter will work on CHS student exchange program GAPP (German American Partnership Program). Committee also approved to support the CHS teacher with \$350 for travel when she is visiting Germany in 2019. It is still to be determined where the funds will come from. Christmas dinner was confirmed to be on December 6, at 6:30 pm. It was proposed to invite a couple of guests to the dinner. John and Phil will contact them.

Treasurer’s Report: Phil presented the Treasurer’s report with a current balance of \$2109. Only 21.13% of the current budget has been spent. John presented the committee with proposed budget of \$2625, by The Council, for 2019. There was not a major change in the amount from the current year. Committee has already started looking into funds needed and planning for the 2020 exchange visit by members and exchange students from *Sister City Bad Zwischenahn, Germany* to Centerville. Committee accepted the Treasurer’s report as presented. Committee approved \$368 to order special gifts (handmade in Ohio) for the upcoming 2020 exchange visit.

Goals and Planning for 2019: Following is a summary of goals and events for 2019:

- A. Meeting dates for 2019: March 5, May 7, September 3, October 1 and November 5.
(Committee can meet anytime it deems necessary in addition to the dates above.)
- B. Increase committee membership and visibility by participating in community events.
- C. Raise funds (pending establishing a non-profit status). It will be in partnership with local businesses and other opportunities as they come up.
- D. Start planning for the 2020 German Sister City exchange visit.
- E. Continue exploring possibilities to establish a new Sister City in Canada. Marilyn presented information about five cities in Ontario, Canada. It was decided to send invitation packets to these Canadian cities to see if they are interested.
- F. To explore getting a new Sister City Banner to promote Sister City Committee at various events.
- G. Christmas dinner in 2019 will be on Tuesday, December 3, at 6:30 pm.
- H. Updated Centerville Sister City link: <http://www.ci.centerville.oh.us/index.php/sister-cities>