

## PASADENA SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Meeting of May 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Fred Alcantar jr. in the Fellowship Room, of Trinity Lutheran Church, 997 Walnut Street, at 6:05 PM

**Members Present:** Fred Alcantar, Rose Altounien, , Yin Yin Huang, Helen Kouyoumdjian, Maureen McConnell, Nat Nehdar, Joan Reyes,, Tamara Silver, Angela Wang, Michael Warner, Cathy Wei, Marcia Montez, Silva Ohanian, Minerva, Emiko Tagami, Horace Williams, Bob Aronoff, and Ean Chong.

**Guest Present: (4)** Laura Benitez, David Ashby, Kim Rollert & Karl Rollert

- 1) The guest were introduced Fred Alcantar
- 2) Minutes of the meeting of March 16 were tabled.
- 3) The Treasurer's Report was distributed electronically. There were no questions; one item was presented for membership vote.
- 4) It was moved, seconded and passed that PSCC continues to provide for the President to attend the SCI Conference.
- 5) A short discussion about Morris Birnbaum passing on 5 April. Some discussion about a memorial service for him and Jack Wills.
- 6) No discussion about the trip to Armenia September 2017 and Germany and Finland June 2018.
- 7) Yin Yin Huang talk briefly about the 2 Cranes Music Festival for 3 to 15 August 2017.
- 8) The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 PM
- 9) The Armenia subcommittee presented their program "A taste of Armenia" and how the Genocide has effected so many people even today.
- 10) Written subcommittee reports that were turned in, are reported as follows – no oral presentation.

**Japan** – the tentative schedules for the visits by our friends from Mishima. All the students (including 2 college students for the PSCC exchange program and 10 young teens for the Friendship 2017 program) will arrive July 29.

The young students will return to Japan around August 5. The college students will stay in Pasadena for an additional 2 weeks.

Mishima Mayor Toyooka and a delegation of about 25 people will visit Southern California from October 21 thru 27.

Bryan Takeda will be in contact with Mishima in the coming days to see if the students can come later and depart later so that they can participate in our summer BBQ.

**China** – We introduced the "Two Cranes Music Festival" more in details to Xicheng. We are still waiting for the update whether there will be some students coming to join the festival.

Our subcommittee had a small meeting on March 25, 2017 and discussed about the potential activities we can have with the Shenyang delegation. The invitation letter prepared by Fred Alcantar; was mailed to Shenyang in Early April. They received the letter and submitted to the mayor of Shenyang for approval. Now, they are waiting for the visa application interview.

**Germany** – Our incoming Ludwigshafen visitors, **Lisa Wenger** and **Sirin Bayram**, have booked their incoming flights and will arrive on the evening of July 4. Sirin returns home on August 17; still waiting to hear from Lisa, but I anticipate her Pasadena departure will be about the same.

A second letter was sent today to our PSCC housing group, advising of the **need for housing for both girls in July and August**. We must actively begin to secure housing for both girls.

We recently learned from Tamara that there is a young man Karl Rollert, who is interested in visiting Ludwigshafen this summer. Michael asked the Ludwigshafen Freundeskris is they would still consider accepting a late arrival and they are happy to accommodate him. We are currently waiting for him to complete the preliminary paperwork and then interview with our committee prior to accepting.

**Armenia** – We were able to finalize what will be repaired at the three Kindergartens. The \$7000 check has been given to ARDA to repair 2 bathrooms and 1 kitchen at K-4, repair 2 bathrooms at K-8 for a total of \$6000. The remaining \$1000 goes toward repairing window frames.

**Ad Hoc Committee on Africa** – Dr. Deborah Mindry, a former resident of Durban in South Africa, has joined forces with us and offered the support of her family network in Durban.

The committee is still working on a fundraiser to be held probably this summer to help take a group of 5 to 7 people to Durban in fall.

**Finland** – Pasi and the students arrived back in Jarvenpaa safely.

The next meeting will be 984 E Locust Street Pasadena. At 6:00 PM on 15 June 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted, for Ofelia Cavazos-Edmondson, Secretary