MINUTES
May 14, 2019

Members Present: Shelley Bain, Darlene Blake, Madeline Goebel, Heidi Hendrickson, Doug Lewis, Roger Nowadzky, Edgar Ortiz, Peggy Patrick, Ginny Renda, Vidal Spaine, Sherill Whisenand, Eleanor Zeff

Members Absent: Kerry Bowen, Bill Sherman, Hollie Zajicek, Li Zhao Mandelbaum

Guests Present: Alex Duong, Potential Volunteer
Olivia Howe, International Baccalaureate Development Coordinator, Des Moines Public Schools

Staff Present: Joyce Warburton

On Tuesday, May 14, 2019, Chairperson Mr. Nowadzky called the meeting of the Greater Des Moines Sister Cities Commission to order at 5:04 PM in the MacRae Conference Room, Richard A. Clark Municipal Services Center, 1551 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER
Mr. Nowadzky welcomed the newest member to the Commission, Ms. Madeline Goebel, who was appointed to the Commission on May 6, 2019 by Council Member Joe Gatto as a representative for Ward IV, to fill vacated Seat 15.

MINUTES
Ms. Whisenand moved to approve the April 9, 2019 minutes as presented. Ms. Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT
Financial report for July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 was distributed indicating April 2019 expenses of $52.65 for publication of the February 12 and March 12, 2019 Sister Cities Commission minutes in the Business Record, and $300 to Ms. Renda for gifts purchased for Kofu delegation trip in April 2019; and $487.50 in reimbursement from the Renaissance Des Moines Savery Hotel for overpayment of the November 28, 2018 Kosovo reception. In addition, a budget adjustment of $2,000 was also made in March 2019. Ms. Whisenand moved to approve the financial report. Ms. Hendrickson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Hendrickson moved to expend $2,968.65 on airfare for Mr. Nowadzky to travel to Pristina, Kosovo as part of a delegation in June 2019. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried.
COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Mr. Nowadzky shared the following written report.

Time is quickly passing, and we are approaching the end of the City's fiscal year. Let me briefly review the activities and events of this past month, and other activities which are in the near future for which we are preparing. Let me begin by sharing the attached Commission report of the 500-year Kofu, Japan Anniversary delegation. The actual event was April 5th and 6th with the delegation arriving late in Kofu April 4th and departing Kofu early April 7th. An official travel report has already been submitted to the City. By all measures the trip was a success. A big thank you for the hospitality shown to the delegation by the City of Kofu.

There are two main Commission activities scheduled for June. The first is the Commission’s participation in the Des Moines Arts Festival, June 28th, 29th, and 30th. This is the second year the Commission will have a booth. Planning including staffing, marketing, and programming, is presently taking place. I will defer to the Commission Vice-Chairperson and the Marketing and Communication Committee Chair to provide further details.

The second main June Commission event is to send a return delegation to Pristina, Kosovo, also the last week in June. As you know, last November the Commission hosted a mayoral delegation from the City of Pristina. At that time Des Moines and Pristina, the capital city of Kosovo, signed a sister city agreement making Pristina our 5th sister city. The purpose of this mayoral return visit is to create and sign a Memorandum of Understanding setting out the work plan for joint activities and programs under the sister city agreement, and to introduce principle players who will carry out such activities.

Planning is also underway for our first major activity of the new fiscal year. On July 14th, the Commission will be co-sponsoring with Alliance Française of Central Iowa its 4th annual Bastille Day community celebration. Our French connection is through our sister city of St. Etienne. This year, July 14th Bastille Day falls on a Sunday. Put it on your calendar now. It is a fun event that your family and friends will not want to miss. Further details will be provided by the St. Etienne Committee.

Again, please read the Commission Chair, Vice-Chair and committee reports prior to our Commission meetings, in preparation for the meeting. If you have noticed it has greatly expedited our meetings and has left time for matters needing clarification and discussion.

Mr. Nowadzky also expressed congratulations to Ms. Zajicek on her recent nuptials.

COMMISSION VICE CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Ms. Patrick shared the following written report.

Des Moines Arts Festival. The Commission has been granted a booth at this year’s arts festival to take place June 28-30. Sherill, Roger and I met recently to discuss last year’s event, how we can make it better serve our guests this year, and to plan other details. It was determined previously that the lengthy hours required more coverage than the Commission can supply. This year’s hours required to man the booth are 11A-9P on Friday and Saturday, and 11A-5P on Sunday.

Several days after receiving word that we would have a booth, we received an agreement to sign and an information packet. Upon reading this information, one important question arose – will they allow us to bring in other nonprofits to help with the booth and advertise their organization. An inquiry has been sent in this regard and as of Friday afternoon, a
response has not yet been received. We had already begun the process of partnering with other organizations to assist us and have put that on hold pending a response to our question. Following is the plan should we reach an agreement with the arts festival. If we cannot reach an agreement, we most likely will not be able to support the booth.

Friendship Force has agreed to cover one session and will possibly pick up additional one(s). The partners will interact with the kids on the planned activity, and there will be at least one Commissioner present at all times to supervise, help with activity traffic, promote Sister Cities, and to address any needs of our guest organization. We will also invite the Friends to participate. Marketing the Sister Cities and Friends will be of prime importance at this event. We are fortunate enough to now have a new Commissioner and potential volunteers with marketing experience to help us move forward. To ensure we are properly presenting the Commission, a required training session will be scheduled for anyone interested in working the Festival booth and any other future events where needed. Assignments for the festival will be made following this training session. More information on this later.

We have chosen to highlight our sister city Shijiazhuang at this event with a Year of the Pig theme. The chosen kids’ activity is a pig corner bookmark.

We are in the process of assessing and purchasing supplies to make up to 1,000 bookmarks. As the folding process will be a bit difficult for little hands, we will plan to pre-fold a large number of bookmarks and will solicit help from the Commission to do this. As we did last year, each child will go away with a tootsie roll or some piece of candy. We are also contemplating preparing a small paper with a description of the Chinese Year of the Pig and a URL of the bookmark instructions.

**Upcoming Fiscal Budget Year End.** We have conservatively expended our Commission funds to cover expenses for projects and travel which we had anticipated in Fiscal Year 2018-2019. In addition, we have held back on making purchases on items to support the Commission which we otherwise would have purchased in the course of the year, to cover expenses of unplanned opportunities. In our planning process we had set aside funding for the Chair of the Pristina Committee to be a delegate in our return trip to our new Kosovo sister city. Unfortunately, Shelley is unable to participate in the end of June delegation to Pristina. But fortunately, we are now able to use those funds in support of Li’s trip on our behalf of the Commission to China next week. See her report for a description of that trip. We anticipate completely depleting the travel fund, and are working on identifying categories of Commission items that need to be purchased or replenished. Commission gifts to be given by the China and Kosovo delegations will come from the current balance. In addition, printing copies of our current brochure, purchasing gifts for future delegations, including and producing a Sister Cities coin/medal are being considered as other possible expenditures.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Stavropol Committee**

Mr. Spaine shared the following written report.

Our sister city relationship with Stavropol remains strong. They are very anxious to resume the school partnership program. I am very hopeful that with Ms. Howe’s visit next week, we will begin the actual process of identifying the schools that could be matched up with the schools in Stavropol. They remind me that their students are eager to make friends with our DMPS students.
Stavropol requested a list of the major companies in Des Moines, and I was able to search the internet for this information. I found a comprehensive list of the major companies in the metro area and forwarded that information to Tatiana. They are yet to make it known to me the reason for the request. It will certainly be a good idea to see some of our prominent companies engage in a business partnership with our sister city, Stavropol. I will reach out to Tatiana to enquire if they are interested in a business partnership with some of the companies on the list I provided.

I received several updated pictures and information from Stavropol that could be added to the Stavropol page on our website. Unfortunately, some of them are in Russian, but the site that contains information about their international and interregional relationships are in English. I apologize for the delay in getting information from Stavropol. I wish the process were much quicker and easier. Sometimes, when I submit a request, I have to wait several days or even weeks for a response.

**Photos Courtesy of Stavropol, Russia**

May 14, 2019

Panoramic view of the central part of Stavropol

Panoramic view of the new year Stavropol

Pedestrian Street is a comfortable recreation area with fountains, light installations and topiary compositions.
Night illumination of the fountain

New Ice Palace in the south-west residential area

New church in the south-west residential area

Shijiazhuang Committee
Ms. Zhao Mandelbaum provided the following written report regarding the Hebei Trade Fair.

Our committee is excited for the first 2019 education-focus delegation into China. The trip was put together relatively quickly, so we don’t have the finalized itinerary yet. Here is a list of everyone on the delegation:

- Lijuan Zhao Mandelbaum, Chair, Des Moines Sister City
- Dustin Ingram, Director, Community & Economic Development Outreach
- Jay Prescott, VP of Student Affairs of Grand View University
- Dana Hustedt, Director of E-sport program of Grand View University
- Wesley Pratt, Student of E-sport of Grand View University
- Bailey Rowell, Director of International Business Development of Kuder
- Joyce Tham, Singapore Client Relationship Manager
A draft itinerary is as follow:

5/14 Leave Des Moines
5/15 Arrival in Beijing
5/16 Meeting with Hebei and Shijiazhuang official
5/17 Official meetings in Langfang
5/18 Round table discussions on Sister City exchanges
5/19 - 5/20 Education exchanges in Shijiazhuang
5/21 Return to Beijing
5/22 Fly back to Des Moines

A detailed report will be provided at the June meeting following the trip.

Ms. Hendrickson moved that Ms. Zhao Mandelbaum be reimbursed for the price of her airfare for the above trip (up to the Economy price - $2,043). Depending upon the travel funds remaining at the conclusion of Mr. Nowadzky’s trip to Kosovo in June, reimbursement for any of the remainder of her applicable expenses would be considered. Ms. Whisenand seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Saint-Etienne Committee**

Ms. Zeff provided the following written report.

The St. Etienne Committee helped facilitate the visit of the St. Etienne High School students and faculty to Johnston High School from April 11-18, 2019. The French students were presented with Des Moines city pins and T-shirts. We also sent information about the visit to KCCI and to the Business Report, where the visit was reported to the public. I sent pictures of the students and the visit to Sherrill to put on the Commission website.

We sent an official letter (along with the power point we had prepared) to the Mayor of St. Etienne and the (15th Adjoint) City Council Member in charge of the Sister City connections in St. Etienne.

We have received a letter from Robert Selby, an “ambassador of World Trade Business networking”. We believe that this letter is in response to the letter we sent to the Mayor and the City Council. The St. Etienne Committee, Roger and Joyce have also seen this letter, and we are all working on some ways to move ahead and take advantage of the openings it appears to offer. There are a few problems to work out.

The St. Etienne Committee met on April 23 to discuss various projects. We are working on the update to the information needed for the renewed website that the Commission has established. I have sent a slightly revised power point to the Commission and Joyce (see below) with just the updated information about St. Etienne and some recent joint projects and events between St. Etienne and Des Moines. The St. Etienne Committee is working this month to add a few more details to our information power point.

We continue to work to establish ties between the DM Metro Opera and the St. Etienne Massenet Opera Company and between the Conservatoire in St. Etienne and Drake University. Some progress is occurring.

One of our goals is to establish ties so that a Des Moines delegation can go to St. Etienne in 2020 on an official visit to celebrate the 35th anniversary of our Sister City accords. We continue to work on this goal.
The St. Etienne committee will meet again on May 28.

**St. Etienne, France**

Information About the City, 2019

St. Etienne, France: Saint-Etienne is thirty miles south of Lyon, in the valley of the Furain river, between valleys of the Loire and Rhone rivers.

Saint-Etienne, France Sister City

- **Mission:** To enhance the global profile of the Greater Des Moines Metropolitan area by bridging communities and opening doors with international sister cities for mutual benefit in culture, education, technology, commerce, and economic development.

- Ball tower of the Notre-Dame church in foreground, buildings and houses of the old town, sight of the Courbet well (wine museum) with its spring and the twin slag heaps in background

- Saint Jean street with its houses and its shops

- St Etienne Biomakar
Information about St. Etienne: A city known as the city of Design. It also has excellent Opera

- French local government
  18 October 2017: Mainland France consists of 36,569 municipalities (communes) in 22 regions. In addition there are 212 communes in French overseas territories. Council elections are held every six years. The last full ones were held in March 2014. The first task of a newly constituted council is to elect a mayor, whose term of office is six years. A mayor's responsibilities include: Civil registration, culture, economy, education, environment, public order, roads, social welfare, urban planning. Following the elections of President Macron and a new national parliament in 2017, a number of cities elected new mayors. In 1998, Saint-Etienne set up a design biennale - the largest of its kind in France. In 2000, the city was named one of the French Towns and Lands of Art and History. On 22 November 2010, it was nominated as "City of Design" as part of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network.

- Saint Etienne
  Popl: 172,000; (2015)
  www.saint-etienne.fr/ | Saint-Etienne's Official Web Site (French)

- Current Mayor (2014) Gael Perdriau; LR: Les Républicains (The Republicans) - center right party. Other Contact Information = Denis Chambe, 15eme adjoint,

- Opera St. Etienne and the Massenet Festivals are important:
  http://opera.saint-etienne.fr/otse/i-opera/historique/

Existing Partnerships between the two cities: The two cities have had several exchanges since the original ones in 1984 and 1985. There were official exchanges in St. Etienne in 2003, 2008, 2010 and 2011 (Martha Nelson, former Sister City Commissioner and Mayors Preston Daniels and Frank Cownie have been involved in these exchanges).

- French Chef Exchanges (existing since 1984-5):
  - Iowa Culinary Institute (ICI), DMACC - Culinary Arts Program
  - French Dinners & Visiting Chefs & Annual May Trip to France - with ICI interns in Saint-Etienne region
  - Partnership since 1985 with L'Association des Cuisiniers de la Loire

Existing Partnerships between the two cities

- January 2019: French Chef's Exchange Gourmet Dinner Experience
  - Each year in January, two chefs from L'Association des Cuisiniers de la Loire (the Chefs' Association from the Saint-Etienne region) come to DMACC’s Iowa Culinary Institute as guest lecturers for the Culinary Arts Program
  - DMACC students - and involved community members - visit France for 12 days as a group organized through DMACC efforts
    - Community members join the 12-day trip as paying and contributing visitors
    - The students are on scholarships, funded by benefits and community donations
    - The group visits open-air food markets, vineyards, and wine châteaux
    - Dines at and tours the kitchens of Michelin-starred restaurants
    - Take a cooking class at the Cordon Bleu
    - Learns about French history and culture on their tours

- Internship
  - After the 12-day trip, students travel to the Saint-Etienne region to serve individual culinary apprenticeships in restaurants of chefs from the Loire Association
  - These cooking internships run for approximately two weeks
Existing Partnerships between the two cities

- **The Marge Anderson French Culinary Scholarships:**
  - Set up in 2009, in honor of Chef Anderson's late mother
  - Scholarships are awarded annually to eight Iowa Culinary Institute (ICI) graduates
  - Based on a competition that includes several criteria, including academic grades and culinary skills
  - In 2014, $72,000 was awarded to the winning students, providing all-expense paid trips to France, including the internships
  - These scholarships have been awarded regularly, the most recently in 2018

Existing Partnerships between the two cities

- **Friends of French Chefs:** To support the community interest and raise funds to support student trips
  - Accompany the staff and students on trips to France
  - Proceeds from The Annual Fleur de Lys Gala and Auction fund the French Chef Exchange
  - To partially cover the students' cost of their trip to France, plus travel and expenses of the visiting French guest chef lecturers
  - In 2018, more than $120,000 raised to support the French Chef Exchange

Existing Partnerships between the two cities

- **Saint-Etienne High School Exchanges**
  - More Des Moines area High Schools are needed for annual exchanges
  - We are currently searching for existing exchanges and are meeting with Des Moines School officials to promote these exchanges
  - Many, many St Etienne students are not selected due to not enough host schools in Polk County

- **Current exchange program: Johnston Schools exchange with Saint-Etienne**
  - Johnston Schools visit Saint-Etienne, France, then the next year Saint-Etienne Schools visits Johnston, IA. Johnston students visited France in May 2018.
  - French students came to Des Moines in April 2019, gifts were exchanged. The students visited the Capitol and received City of Des Moines pins. There was media coverage of the visit, KCCI, the Business Record.
Kofu Committee
Mr. Nowadzky provided the following written report.

Report to the Greater Des Moines Sister Cities Commission
Commission Delegation to Kofu, Japan to Celebrate Kofu 500 Year Anniversary
4/3/19 – 4/7/19

Purpose of Travel:
Our delegation traveled at the invitation of the City of Kofu, Japan to attend the City’s 500-year anniversary celebration of the founding of their city. The purpose of accepting the invitation and sending a Sister Cities delegation was to further the relationship between these two sister cities, to reestablish municipal government-to-municipal government contact, and to renew ties for dialogue about future mutually beneficial programs and exchanges. The City of Kofu paid for the delegation’s lodging, meals and transportation, including to and from Narita airport in Tokyo, related to the delegation’s activities while in Kofu.
Delegation Members:
Roger Nowadzky, Sister Cities Commission Chairperson
Douglas Lewis, Sister City Commissioner and Kofu City Committee Chair
Theresa Lewis, Kofu City Committee member
Ryota Yamamoto, Kofu City Committee member
City Council member Bill Gray (who had to cancel at the last minute due to emergency circumstances)

Executive Summary:
Below is the trip’s itinerary as established and carried out by the City of Kofu. To celebrate its 500 years as a city, the municipality of Kofu invited delegations from all of its sister cities and friendship cities, including its Sister City of Yamatokoriyama, Japan, Sister City of Pau, France, Friendship City of Cheongji, Republic of Korea, Friendship City of Chengdu China, Friendship City of Lodi, California, in addition to their Sister City of Des Moines. Municipal officials from these international cities presided with Kofu officials and were guests in a number of ceremonies and activities planned in conjunction with the anniversary celebration.

Delegates experienced historic sites, vantage points to view the city and Mt. Fuji, participated in the dedication of the city’s new museum, participated in the official anniversary ceremonies and reception, and participated in Kofu’s annual Shengen-ko festival, planned for the same dates. Delegates from each of Kofu’s sister cities and friendship cities marched in costume in the world’s largest samurai parade and battle ceremony.

The goal of the Greater Des Moines Sister Cities Commission in sending a delegation was to strengthen our relationship with our Japanese city. Last year Kofu and Des Moines marked a 60-year sister city relationship. While there has been a constant connection between our communities, much of the activities have taken the form of student and teacher exchanges. A specific purpose and goal of accepting the Kofu invitation was to re-establish municipal ties, city government - to city government, which had eroded over the years. With this fresh reconnection, renewed and improved communication, programing and exchanges should logically follow. In this regard, we accomplished both our general and specific goals.

Schedule and Activities
Please see the attached itinerary established by the City of Kofu in addition to this narrative. Activity descriptions are supplemented by photographs to help convey the sense of interaction with our Kofu municipal hosts and the level of active participation in which the delegation was involved in these planned anniversary events. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. What the individual photos don’t convey well is the magnitude of this community event, particularly the Shengen-ko festivities and the size of the public crowds.

April 3, 2019 – April 4, 2019
Flight to Tokyo Narita airport and bus transportation to city of Kofu.

April 5, 2019
Our delegation, together with the municipal delegates from the other Kofu sister cities and friendship cities, viewed the ruins of the castle establishing the original location of the community which became Kofu and which now is the site of a Shinto shrine.
Delegation with our assigned Kofu city staff at ruins of Kofu Castle, the site where Kofu was founded 500 years ago.

Des Moines delegate Theresa Lewis is ceremonially washing her hands at Shinto shrine built approximately 200 years ago at the Kofu Castle site. Next to her is the Mayor of Kofu’s Friendship City of Cheongji, Republic of Korea.

Delegates then attended and participated in the opening ceremony and dedication of the Shingen Museum. Commission Chairperson Roger Nowadzky, represented Des Moines in planting a ceremonial tree at the entrance of the museum along with mayors of the other Kofu sister and friendship cities.

Shingen Museum dedication ribbon cutting. Assisting Kofu’s Mayor was the famous Japanese actor Matsudaira Ken.

Ceremonial tree planting in dedication of the Museum on behalf of the cities of Des Moines, Iowa and Lodi, California.
In the afternoon, we were taken on a tour of the Shosenkyo Gorge where we had lunch at the Shadow Picture Art Museum and then taken to a view of Mt. Fuji via sky lift (ropeway ride).

Kofu is located in a valley in the shadow of Mt. Fuji.

In the late afternoon our Des Moines delegation met with Kofu Mayor Yuichi Higuchi in his office in Kofu City Hall.

In the evening the delegation attended the 500 Kofu Anniversary Welcome Reception. Mayors from each of Kofu’s sister cities and friendship cities gave speeches respectively congratulating Kofu on its anniversary and briefly explaining their connection to Kofu.

Des Moines Commission Chairperson addressing the gathering.
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On behalf of Des Moines, Commission Chairperson, Roger Nowadzky described the history of the Des Moines-Kofu relationship, whose genesis is the result of Iowa’s famous hog lift, replenishing Yamanashi Prefecture’s area’s swine livestock which was devastated by a typhoon. A significant portion of Japan’s pigs even today have Iowa swine DNA. Kofu’s expressed its continued gratitude by returning the favor years later by sending a relief check to the City of Des Moines following the Great Midwestern Flood of 1993. Following these remarks, Kofu Mayor Higuchi was then presented with the City proclamation that declared April 1st through the 7th as Kofu 500 Anniversary Week in Des Moines.

Kofu Mayor Yuichi Higuchi accepting Des Moines proclamation.

April 6, 2017
On April 6th, Ryota Yamamoto, member of the Kofu Sister City Committee who now lives in Tokyo, joined the Des Moines delegation.

Japanese Tea Service at the Kofu Civic Center prior to the 500-year anniversary program – Doug Lewis and Ryo Yamamoto pictured.

The morning’s activities commenced with the official ceremony commemorating the 500-year anniversary of the founding of Kofu. The program was held in the Civic Center. During the program, each of the Kofu’s sister cities and friendship cities including Des Moines were introduced and featured in a video which highlighted each city.
Group photo of dignitaries, including sister city and friendship city delegations, Kofu municipal officials, and Yamanashi Prefecture officials who presided over the anniversary ceremonies.

The Kofu 500 Year Anniversary Celebration was scheduled to coincide not only with the Sakura cherry trees in full bloom but also with Kofu’s 43rd annual Shengen-ko festival. Every year this festival celebrates the legacy of Yamanashi’s famous warlord, Takeda Shingen. The main highlight of the festival is the Koshu Battalion Deployment. This deployment is Japan’s number one largest reenactment of warriors. Each year around 1500 locals dress in traditional samurai costume and participate in a battle march around Kofu.

Opening ceremonies of the Koshu Battalion Deployment.

This year’s deployment was led by the famous Japanese actor Matsudaira Ken portraying Takeda Shingen. Mr. Ken also had the honor of participating in the ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating the opening of the Shingen Museum. He is standing next to the Mayor in the previous pictures of the ceremony.
In the afternoon, sister city and friendship city delegation members, including Des Moines Commission delegates Doug Lewis, Theresa Lewis, and Ryo Yamamoto were fitted with armor or kimonos and then participated as a sister city unit in the reenactment and parade. Those sister city delegates not dressed in costume joined Mayor Higuchi at the festival stage to observe the formal ceremony deployment and ritual performances. Members of Japan’s nation press covered the event and interviewed the Commission’s Chair whose observations and remarks appeared the next day in the local newspaper.

This year’s deployment and parade was estimated at 1600 people in costume (the world’s largest samurai festival and parade according to the Guinness Book of World Records) and continued into the evening.

As the warriors and princess maidens paraded for hours, citizens encouraged and joined in their battle cry for victory…"aye...aye.........oh!"

Theresa Lewis in costume at dusk in the parade.
Doug Lewis and Ryo Yamamoto with Kofu friendship city delegates from Lodi, California leading their brigade.

April 7, 2017
The morning of April 7th the delegation departed Kofu. Some headed to Tokyo and some traveled to the base of Mt. Fuji in the trek to Tokyo’s Narita airport to fly back to Des Moines.

Lake Kawagaguchi at the base of Mt. Fuji.

Conclusion and Assessment
Although our trip was condensed in a short time period (with more time traveling to Japan and back than in Kofu), the delegation was able to foster meaningful relationships with Kofu municipal officials. It was also interesting and valuable to interact with the municipal officials from Kofu’s other sister and friendship cities. There was a sense of comradery in addition to any cultural understanding with a common bond, and Kofu serving as a hub to our international spokes.

I believe all the delegates came back with renewed and positive energy about our sister relationship with Kofu and I look forward to more meaningful programing between our two cities. The Japanese appeared to be enthusiastic about this step in reconnection as well. Our hosts were not only professional, they were very warm, hospitable, and accommodating. There was no substitute for this face-to-face interaction and connection. A foundation was laid for further communication, coordination, and programing. The delegation expresses their gratitude, for the friendly and gracious hospitality extended us in addition to our appreciation of mutual respect as municipal representatives.
The delegation was to be led by a Des Moines elected official, the Mayor Pro Tem. To competently represent Des Moines, the Commission needed to ensure that our lead official was properly trained before the trip and properly supported by the delegation during the trip. That official and to a lesser degree all delegation members needed to understand the sense of international diplomacy and etiquette as public officials in representing the City on this trip. Rules of Japanese business etiquette needed to be understood, but there was an additional layer of diplomacy and protocol on top of cultural understanding and good manners. As it turned out, the Mayor Pro Tem was not able to participate in the delegation, and that lead role was assumed by the Commission Chairperson.

Obviously, basic Japanese cultural understanding was a part of the training for all delegates. Even though all of the remaining Des Moines delegates had traveled to Japan, had lived in Japan, or had previously served in Sister City delegations to Japan, we still needed to brush up and become current in our understanding. That is why Heather Jones, Executive Director of Iowa Sister States was asked to bring an outside objective perspective to reinforce and brief us, based upon her more recent extensive living experiences in Japan and specifically in Kofu’s Prefecture of Yamanashi. Thank you, Heather, for your assistance. Delegate selection, delegate training, and operation as a team, with team members serving specific roles all need to be part of the considerations in future Commission outbound delegations. Parallel considerations need to be addressed in hosting incoming delegations as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Nowadzky
Chairperson of the Greater Des Moines Sister City Commission
Pristina Committee
Ms. Bain shared the following written report.

**Non-Travel Exchanges for 2019-2020 Fiscal Year – Proposed**

**Non-Travel Exchange 1:** Create a relationship with TOKA Camp - Sister City Youth Exchange representative Jehona Gjurgjeala and a potential Des Moines sponsor such as the Des Moines Public Schools or the Des Moines Police Department.

*Date:* Summer 2020 kickoff for 2020-2021 school year

*Description:* The intention of this program is to provide a platform to youth in the sister city communities to learn skills that will help them in their future. Sister cities are cities that are linked to each other for multipurpose cultural exchange. High school youth from sister cities in Iowa and Kosovo meet throughout the year to learn about global citizenship and participate in service-learning projects. These meetings culminate in an international experience where participants get to visit new places, meet international students, and use the skills they have gained throughout the year.

From TOKA website: This year 8 Kosovar students from Peja and Gjakova, as well as 8 Iowa students from Ft. Dodge and Johnston met once a month for 5 months to increase their awareness of different cultures and learn about being a global citizen. All 16 students participated in TOKA’s International camp this summer where they completed a service-learning project together. The Kosovar students took on the role of ambassadors and showed the Iowans around their respective sister cities.

*Costs:* Minimal, students and sponsor(s) would fundraise to cover the eventual travel and camp expenses.

*Number of persons to complete:* 1) Sponsoring organization, and 2) 4 – 6 students from DMPS high schools.

*Expertise needed:* 1) mentoring by Johnston program participants, 2) student recruitment, 3) fundraising

*Length of time to complete:* Ongoing

**Non-Travel Exchange 2:** Create an art exchange between a Des Moines school and Pristina school.

*Description:* Create an art exchange with the help of the DMPS teacher who has been assigned to Pristina by Matt Smith and a teacher in the Pristina schools. Works of 2-dimensional art would be created by students and sent to the sister city as a gift and for display. Art produced in Des Moines would be matted in standard size mats of like size for ease of mailing. A theme for the art is to be determined. The art work sent from Pristina to Des Moines would be matted (if needed), displayed in the school of the participating class and displayed in other locations if possible.

*Costs (estimate):* Art materials $200, matting $100, shipping $100.

*Number of persons to complete:* 1) Sponsoring teacher and students in Des Moines and 2) same in Pristina.

*Proposed date(s):* 2019/2020 school year

*Length of time to complete:* 2019/2020 school year
Des Moines Delegation to Pristina

Roger Nowadzky, Peggy Patrick, and Shelley Bain met April 23 to discuss the potential Des Moines delegation to Pristina lead by Mayor Frank Cownie. Peggy sent invitations to representatives of the Des Moines Partnership, Downtown Chamber, Young Professionals Connection, Mercy College, Des Moines Police Department, and Friends of the Sister Cities Board. The dates have been confirmed by both mayors and the proposed schedule is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun Jun 23</td>
<td>Full delegation from Des Moines to arrive in Pristina.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon Jun 24</td>
<td>Participate in Mayor Ahmeti's plans for the delegation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues Jun 25</td>
<td>Conference with the two Mayors, and other principals, on creating the memorandum of understanding between Pristina and Des Moines. Remainder of delegation to participate in other events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jun 26</td>
<td>Mayor Cownie will leave for Bonn late Tuesday or early Wednesday with the remainder of the delegation staying through Wednesday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Jun 27</td>
<td>Delegation departs for Des Moines.</td>
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Chief of Mission Artan Duraku

Kosovo Consul General Gashi has returned to Kosovo and his replacement, Chief of Mission Artan Duraku, arrived several weeks ago. GDMSC Commissioners plan to meet with Mr. Duraku later in May.

From the Kosovo Consulate Facebook page:
Consulate of the Republic of Kosovo in Des Moines, IA, April 23 at 12:14 PM
Meet our new Chief of Mission Artan Duraku!

Artan has previously served as Director of Department of Policy Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He comes with an extensive experience at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kosovo where he has coordinated activities for the European Integration process. Other than his native language, he is fluent in English, German, Italian and Serbian.

He is very excited to work with all our partners and is ready to cooperate in all sectors.

Local Kosovo Projects

Women in Energy Program at DMACC

The Millennium Foundation Kosovo has formally launched its Women in Energy Scholarship program in partnership with Des Moines Area Community College. The program, first announced in December, will provide scholarships for a new generation of female leaders to train at DMACC for Kosovo’s expanding energy sector. Kosovo and the U.S. government’s Millennium Challenge Corp. are providing a grant of approximately $1 million for the program, which will provide full two-year scholarships for 25 Kosovo women beginning in the fall of 2019. DMACC offers a practical, business-ready education in Wind Turbine Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology/Solar, Applied Engineering, Tool & Die, Computer Aided Design and other degrees that have application to the energy industry.

Kosovo Launches U.S. Business Outreach in Iowa partnered with Norwalk

Kosovo plans to offer 1,200 acres of free land acres for what is called the Kosovo American Economic City near Gjakova, Kosovo. There will be no property taxes to qualifying U.S. businesses interested in opening shop in the European nation. Kosovo is particularly interested in businesses in agricultural industries, meat processing, mining, labor-intensive work, machinery, automotive, wind energy, biofuels and solar energy.

Kosovo has a relatively inexpensive workforce and a favorable tax structure that should help lure U.S.-based business operations that want to target European markets.
Kosovo is working with Simpson College and the city of Norwalk on a feasibility plan to build out the U.S.-related development in Kosovo, looking for the best mix of incentives. Norwalk was chosen as a partner because of its recent commercial growth. Commissioner Hollie Zajicek is the Development Director for Norwalk.

**Note:** Gjakova is a sister city of Ft Dodge and Vustrri is a sister city of Norwalk.

**Food Wine & Culture Tour**
Kim Heidemann, former Executive Director of Iowa Sister States and now Executive Partner at Alliance Global Solutions, is sponsoring a tour of Kosovo called Food Wine & Culture for October 5-13, 2019. Space is limited so contact Kim at kim@aglobals.com asap if interested.


**Italy Committee**
Nothing new was reported.

**Education Committee**
Mr. Spaine introduced Ms. Olivia Howe, International Baccalaureate (IB) Development Coordinator with the Des Moines Public Schools. Ms. Howe shared the following presentation regarding the IB Program.
The I.B. Continuum

International Baccalaureate Programs
Des Moines Public Schools Continuum

Primary Years Program
(K-5)
Park Avenue Elementary School
Walnut Street School
Stowe Elementary
Hubbell Elementary
Moore Elementary

Middle Years Program
(6-10)
Brody Middle School
Goodrell Middle School
Merrill Middle School
Meredith Middle School
Hoover High School

Diploma Program
(11&12)
Hoover High School
Des Moines Sister City Partnerships & DMPS

Foster Intercultural Understanding and Respect Through...
  o Classroom connections (Skype, Zoom, YouTube)
  o Shared blog (literature circles, shared thinking, etc.)
  o Physical artwork exchange
  o Expand global perspectives through sharing of educational resources

“Ambassador” from each of the 10 DMPS IB World Schools to support coordination of cultural exchanges

“...I realized that I was no longer the same person from when I first started the Diploma Programme. Yes, I've matured and become more open-minded. But what matters the most, is that I've finally come to the point where physical borders that separate different cultures and discrimination that individuals face upon crossing those borders, no longer exist in my mind. I've become a 'global citizen' in its fullest meaning.” -- Iva Martinac, DP graduate

Olivia Howe
International Baccalaureate Curriculum Coordinator
Des Moines Schools

olivia.howe@dmschools.org
Ms. Howe shared that there are more than 150 countries around the world. IB schools are a mark that a school meets a standard of education quality that is globally recognized as a high quality international education. Schools must go through a rigorous process to become an IB school.

Ms. Howe suggested that, for an initial pilot with one of Des Moines’ schools and sending a School Principal or IB Coordinator (someone who would be in a leadership role in that school) as a first ambassador to meet with a school in one of our Sister Cities. If Des Moines Schools were to make an investment in this, they would want to be able to know of what value this travel and experience would be for that individual and how that impacted teaching/learning for them.

Mr. Nowadzky indicated there is a desire to connect all our Sister Cities to this program.

Ms. Howe is interested in sending up to 20 pieces of art work when a Des Moines delegation would go abroad; and, also selecting a grade level that might complement the Sister Cities schools needs that would assist with fostering a relationship.

Ms. Whisenand moved that the Commission proceed with Ms. Howe of the DMPD assisting the Commission with an open discussion related to how we can build a stronger bond and move forward with the relationship of the International Baccalaureate program and strive to proceed over the next 90 days. Mr. Ortiz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

To move forward, Ms. Howe asked that City Chairs provide contact information for schools in their respective cities as soon as possible so that she could begin facilitating connections with the appropriate IB school in the Des Moines Public School District. Please email this information to her at olivia.howe@dmschools.org.

OLD BUSINESS
Des Moines Arts Festival – June 28-30, 2019
All marketing and signage to be used in the booth must be approved by the Arts Festival organizers no later than May 31, 2019.

The agreement with the Arts Festival is that if the Commission has a booth at this year’s festival, that there must be 50/50 representation. That would mean 2 Commissioners and 2 non-profit representatives in the booth, especially during peak times. In order to avoid confusion as to who’s booth it is, there will be a sign behind the table thanking that non-profit organization for their assistance in making their children’s experience better.

The plan is to have 1 Commissioner available to answer questions regarding what the Commission does and also direct visitors to the activity table (which will have 1 Commissioner and 2 non-profit representatives).

In honor of the “Year of the Pig 2019” for Chinese New Year, the kids craft will be a corner “Pig” bookmark.

Following discussion, the consensus was that if there are not enough Commission Members and non-profit organizations committed to staffing the booth for the three days, then participation will be pulled.

NEW BUSINESS
No New Business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Whisenand and seconded by Ms. Bain. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 PM.
NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be June 11, 2019 at 5:00 PM in the MacRae Conference Room, Richard A. Clark Municipal Service Center, 1551 East Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway.