

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury and Wicomico County  
June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Zoom meeting began at 4:00 p.m.

Present: John Hickman, George Whitehead, Gerry Wood, Nate Sansom, Carole Champagne

May Minutes were approved. Carolina Bown's first name was misspelled.

Reports and updates:

Salisbury, UK: Gerry contacted Therese about advice for reapplying for the \$1000 SWAC grant. Our website banner should be replaced because the dates for this year's planned events have passed. Some suggested a different view of the Cathedral so the page would look different. Gerry recently listened to the Cathedral's organ through a Hauptwerk audio organ attachment on a local organ. It sounded like he was in the cathedral!

Tartu, Estonia: Carole joined the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Joint Baltic American National Committee on April 28. Eerik Niles-Kross of the Estonian Parliament spoke about the origins and early days of the Baltic organization. Ojars Kalinins of the Latvian Parliament, Zygimantas Pavilionis and Emanuelis Zingeris of the Lithuanian Parliament also spoke. Karl Altau, JBANC director, coordinated the forum. The event was recorded.

Salinas, Ecuador: George reported that Carolina Bown volunteered to translate for Salinas secondary schools and mayor's office. Wicomico County high schools are interested in virtual pen pals and school partnerships. Nate communicates with the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil to identify and recruit Salinas secondary schools. The School District and City of Salisbury hope to begin school partnerships in Fall 2021.

Dalian, China: Nate and Acting Mayor Julia Glanz met virtually with Vice Mayor Fang and Dalian government officials virtually. Brian Stiegler, Associate Provost of International Education, and David Treber, Business Manager, Center for International Education, participated in the meeting with Dalian officials. Dalian requested to be an official Sister City with Salisbury. Brian proposed online ESL courses between Dalian University and Salisbury University. Dalian initiated concrete proposals in order to establish an official agreement, including the establishment of formal elementary school pen pal program. Cultural exchanges through participation in the 2022 Maryland Folk Festival was proposed. Nate submitted the May 27 Press Release from the City of Salisbury Office of the Mayor.

Updates: John and George missed the May 25 Sister Cities International U.S. and Great Britain online forum. Mary Papco serves as Chair of the Global Awareness Team. They will check with her for event recordings. Trifold displays for Third Friday are stored in the SU campus office.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45. No July meeting is scheduled. Tentative August updates will be sent through email. A Zoom meeting will be held if needed.