

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County
Minutes of the January 4, 2010 Meeting

Place: Government Office Building, Conference Room 300

Attending: Chair George Whitehead, Hong Yao, Cindy Feist, Brian Stiegler, Therese Hamilton, Bryan Burrows-McElwain, John Hickman, Ernest Bogar, and Marion Keenan

Minutes: Bryan Burow-McElwain moved and John Hickman seconded approval of the *Minutes* of the previous meeting. Minutes approved without additions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Ernest Boger reported a balance of \$392.50. There was a payment of \$50 for printing our organization's brochure.

Education: The Committee met at the Board of Education. We have been contacted by a Catholic school in Salisbury, England, which is interested in having a partner school here. Kim Meyers is inquiring further. The consensus was that this seems like a good idea.

International Business Conference: John Hickman reported its cancellation because of so few registrants. The apparent lack of interest seems puzzling. John plans to call another meeting toward the end of January.

Cultural Arts: Therese Hamilton expressed interest in working with June Krell-Salgado at SU. A meeting is planned for some time in the next 30 days.

Salisbury, UK: George informed the group about a prospective visit from UK film maker Simon Maher, who is putting together a documentary about the Salisbury cities in the US. George spoke with Salisbury NC Director of Planning Joe Morris, who reported that Mr. Maher would be in NC March 16 through 18. Mr. Morris understands that Simon Maher will be in our Salisbury some time after March 20. Salisbury UK's Barry Pritchard sent some information but we still are unclear about our association's expected part in Mr. Maher's video project.

Salisbury, NC: Before her departure from her position with the City of Salisbury NC's Cheerwine debut here through Pepsi. There was general agreement that the Salisbury Festival would be an ideal launch venue. Cindy Feist and George Whitehead will continue communication with Cheerwine/Pepsi about the launch.

SU program on International Studies: The Center for International Studies was recognized recently in print and on PAC 14.

Tartu, Estonia: Both Brian Stiegler (SU) and Bryan Burrows-McElwain (UMES) visited Tartu and will present a plaque from Tartu to Mayor Ireton at our association's next meeting (assuming the Mayor can attend). We also received a DVD on a notable Tartu architect. We presented a photo of a skipjack and Tartu presented us with a photo of a barge.

The new US Ambassador to Estonia met with the Sister States group. Maryland has a high number of Estonia Sister Cities.

During SU/UMES visit to Estonia, Brian and Bryan attended the first-ever America Day. They introduced themselves at the Estonia Council. Estonia has a long tradition of choral music and it was agreed that we should try to put together a choral presentation for Estonia in turn, record it on CD or DVD, and present it to Estonia.

The University of Tartu has re-named its American Studies program for a former US Ambassador.

Brian noted that SU students take the European Studies program based in Tartu. The expense for students is relatively cost-neutral. By contrast, the cost for Estonia students studying at UMES' Aviation Academy is relatively high, especially because Estonia's tuition is much more heavily subsidized by its government and UMES' tuition would have to be paid out of pocket. UMES is exploring the feasibility of an Aviation Academy joint program with support from the European Erasmus Program

The Perdue School will be back in Estonia during the summer, should it get at least registrations for the trip.

Web site: Tom Welsh may help us.

Spring Intern: Will be charged with producing a video titled "International Salisbury" to highlight our various ethnic communities. It would include our more recent Asian, Middle Eastern, & Latin American resident communities, as well as those of African and European descent. Hong Yao noted our Chinese New Year celebrations and will inform us about the date and programs. Visits to local mosques the Hindu Temple, and other places of worship might also be included in the video production.

2010 meetings: Set for the 1st Thursday of each month.