

Sister Cities Association of Salisbury/Wicomico County

Minutes of the March 7, 2017 Meeting

Began: 4:00 PM in Government Office Building Conference Room 301. **Ended:** 5:10 PM.

Attending: George Whitehead, Ernest Boger, Gerry Wood, Cindy Feist, Carole Champagne

Minutes: January Minutes submitted by Carole were approved.

Treasurer's report: Dr. Boger submitted the report from the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation account. The balance is 106.58.

SU Intern: We have no intern this semester.

Dalian, China: George submitted copies of past official letters of invitation to Nancy Talbott. They were templates for formal documents to convert the Friendship agreement to a Sister Cities agreement. The Friendship status is active, but not listed in the Sister Cities International Directory. We did not receive feedback about the status of the agreement.

Tartu, Estonia: George wrote a press release about the Sister States Legislative Reception on Wednesday, February 1 at the Miller Senate Office Building in Annapolis. We joined the Deputy Chief of Mission of Estonian Embassy and Maryland Estonia Exchange Council at the event. We also networked with the South American embassy and consulate officials. George submitted photos with the Eastern Shore delegates. Toivo Tagamets also sent photos for the website.

Potential Sister City in Ecuador: Patricia Feitz, Consul General of the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador wrote Carole last week. Adam Kaplan, Vice President of Sister Cities International informed her that we were interested in a Sister Cities relationship with Salinas, Ecuador. The Consul General called Carole twice on March 3 with Mayor Daniel Cisneros of Salinas. They were very enthusiastic about a potential relationship. Salinas is a resort community on the Pacific coast with resort tourism, several universities, and industries. It has nature reserves as well as natural resources and similar in size to Salisbury. She sent fact sheets. Carole printed out the material and gave it to the office of the Mayor. Mayor Cisneros will tentatively stop by Salisbury on his way to a month in Europe. Mayor Day will be in Salisbury on March 17.

Newsletter and Website: Website links will be updated. George suggested additions to the newsletter draft. The press release and photos from the Legislative Reception will be added. The current Newsletter article will be edited. Fact Sheet and Accomplishments will be edited by April.

Membership: The invoice for the 2017-2018 dues has not been located. George received notification, but does not know to whom the invoice was sent. Theo will inquire about the City of Salisbury email address.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Secretary: Carole Champagne