

CITY OF PENSACOLA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
10 A.M.

Vince Whibbs, Sr. Conference Room
1st Floor, City Hall

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes—May 23, 2018*
3. Sister City Updates:
 - a) Gero, Japan—Laverne Baker
 - b) Macharaviaya, and Borobia, Spain—Nan Harper
 - c) Galvez Celebration—Nan Harper
 - d) Pensacola Sister Cities International
4. Japan-America Society of Northwest Florida Update—Laverne Baker
5. Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council Updates—Jena Melancon
 - a) International Visitors Leadership Program
 - b) Young Professionals
 - c) Youth Diplomats
6. New Business
7. Open Forum
8. Adjourn

*The International Relations Advisory Board did not meet in June, July, or August

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MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

May 23, 2018

10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Laverne Baker, Nan Harper, Beth Partington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jena Melancon, Doug Trelfa

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Staff: Elaine Mager

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by former Chair, Laverne Baker. A quorum was established.
2. Approval of Minutes: **Motion made by Member Harper, seconded by Member Partington to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2018 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.**
3. Sister City Updates:

a) Gero Japan

Member Baker reported on the recent visit to Gero by Mayor Hayward to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Gero, which culminated in the formal resigning of the friendship agreement. While in Gero, the delegation which included Scott Luth, CEO of FloridaWest explored economic development opportunities, attracting tourism to the region, as well as initiatives to encourage young people to stay and invest in the region. While in Gero, they toured the infrastructure of the City and City Hall.

Gero will be sending a delegation of four people to Pensacola July 13 – 16, which will include Mayor Hatori, the President of Gero Chamber of Commerce and the School Superintendent. A reception will be held at City Hall on July 13 from 4:30 – 6 p.m. Also meetings will be set up with Scott Luth, Clay Ingram and Quint Studer. Also, Member Baker is trying to set up meeting with Jim Sparks at the University of West Florida to explore economic ties for products from Gero.

In addition, the Japan America Society of Northwest Florida received a \$10,000 Foo Foo Festival Grant. They are also working on a Market Day to feature Japanese Food and Products, possibly sometime in October or November.

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b) Macharaviaya, and Barobia, Spain

Member Harper reported on the successful visit of the delegations from Macharaviaya, Spain and Barobia, Spain and the events that took place in their honor while they were in Pensacola. She reported on the Pensacola Sister Cities friendship celebration and the warm reception the Spanish delegations received. Council President Gerald Wingate attended and presented the Resolution establishing the sister city relationship to Alvaro de Marichelary Saenz de Tejada, who was instrumental in developing this new relationship. It was noted that there is also a link between Barobia, Spain and ancestors of Alvaro de Marichelary Saenz de Tejada with Japan. His ancestors are featured in many of the textbooks used by Japanese students and he would like to explore possibility of establishing twinning with Gero.

Maria Davis, Honorary Vice Consul General of Spain and her son Lepo will be going to Macharaviaya in July for the reenactment ceremony. The CEIP Custodio PUGA school in Torre Mar will be sending their Galvez essays to the Pensacola Beach School to further the relationship between these two schools.

There is a possibility of the King and Queen of Spain coming to New Orleans in June for their 300th Tricentennial Celebration. Names of Pensacola's Granaderos y Damas de Galvez were sent to the Consul General in Miami for vetting in case they are included in events planned while the King and Queen are in New Orleans.

The National Celebration of Galvez will take place in Pensacola on November 9, 10 and 11th.

c) Galvez Celebration

Member Partington reported on the successful Galvez Essay contest. Over 100 entries were received and reviewed by a committee of five people. The essays were narrowed down to five or six and were independently ranked by the committee. The winning essay was ranked number 1 by all members of the committee. The winner was Emma Vislay, who read her essay at the May 9th reception and was presented a \$100 award.

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Member Harper reported on the Galvez Celebration. All members of the Spanish delegation were dressed in period costume and participated in the historic aspects of the celebration. They were also present and participated in the dedication of the Galvez Statue.

4. Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council Updates:

With the absence of Chair Melancon, updates on the International Visitors Leadership Program, the Young Professionals, and the Mint Jubilee were not given.

b) Youth Diplomats

Member Partington gave an update on the Youth Diplomats. They met on May 19th with the theme of peace building. There will be a social gathering in July and a special luncheon will be held in August. New applications will be taken, hopefully not during exam time, with a priority to encourage participation for more than one year.

Four students were selected to go to Washington, DC, including her son who had to decline due to previous commitment to Boys State.

It would be good to get a summary from the students participating in the youth diplomats program on what they learned, what they would like to learn and how they can use what they learned to further global interests.

5. New Business:

Member Partington suggested the possibility of exploring and forming a sister city club with IB students at Pensacola High School and how to support it. She also reported on the success of the State History competition where Pensacola High School IB students won four out of nine awards for their projects. The subject of the competition was Conflict and Compromise. Her daughter received an award for her report on the Central Life Insurance Building on DeVilliers Street which was used as a central hub for the NAACP during the lunch counter sit-ins that were held in Pensacola during the Civil Rights movement. Her daughter is going to pursue a State Historic Plaque designation for the building site.

6. Open Forum: No one present.

7. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.