

CITY OF PENSACOLA
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020
10 A.M.

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Oath of Office—City Clerk
3. Approval of Minutes—November 20, 2019
4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
5. Sister City Updates
6. Interest in Establishing Sister City Relationship with Vicenza, Italy
7. Update—UWF Center for Asian Studies
8. Report on Galvez National Meeting
9. New Business
10. Open Forum
11. Adjourn

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**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 20, 2019
10 A.M.**

Members Present: Doug Trelfa, Chair, Beth Partington, Vice Chair, Laverne Baker, Jena Melancon

Members Absent: Nan Harper

Others Present: Carmen Zampini, Kathy Ahlen

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Trelfa. A quorum was Established.
2. Approval of Minutes—October 23, 2019

Motion made by Member Baker, seconded by Vice Chair Partington to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2019 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Sister City Updates:
 - a) Gero Japan—Member Baker indicated that she spoke with Michael Dennis and he would welcome students from the Creative Learning Academy and Episcopal Day School to join students from Brown Barge going to Gero, Japan in June. Chair Trelfa will be leaving in May with students from UWF for their semester in Japan and will meet the Brown Barge students in Gero in June.
4. Update--Sister Cities International Galvez Essay Contest
Vice Chair Partington reported the deadline for the essay contest is a couple of weeks away. Information about the contest was given to Big Brothers and Big Sisters, hoping to get some interest in the contest. Member Melancon volunteered to send out information about the essay contest to her membership group.

Member Melancon also noted the article in the Pensacola News Journal about a student in Texas doing a school project on Pensacola and thought that it would be nice to send her a copy of last year's essay, since it contained information on the history of Pensacola.

5. Update—UWF Center for Asian Studies
Chair Trelfa provided an update on the UWF Center for Asian Studies. There will be a launch party on Friday. The mission of the Center is to build upon what has been done for many years with other countries, specifically with Japan, and to engage other countries throughout Asia. They are doing language programs, have

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started offering Korean language and plan on offering Vietnamese, Chinese, and Russian. A group of students interested in Russian language and culture and have formed a Russian Club.

There will be guest speakers scheduled for next year as well as an academic conference. They are developing a certificate program in Asian studies. They still have the Japan House and Japan related activities that include the traditional tea ceremony, origami, meditation, bonsai and other activities. Visitors are coming to UWF and new partnerships are being developed with Nagoya University of Foreign Studies and with Keimyung University in South Korea. They are doing a study abroad program with Korea.

Member Melancon mentioned the possibility of students making an application through the Ashley Hardaway Scholarship fund to help with the study abroad and will forward information on the fund.

6. Update—Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council

Member Melancon reported that they just won a grant and will be working with Georgetown University in January and February for another children/youth exchange, this time from Central America. There are three International Visitors Leadership Program delegations coming in the next few weeks. Still in the process of growing the student led youth diplomat programs. She also got a grant to go to Washington, DC to market the Diplomacy Council.

7. New Business

Board Members have submitted their applications of interest in being reappointed to serve on the International Relations Advisory Board for a two year term. Board members will be advised when that will be considered by the City Council. **The Board will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 22, 2020.** Member Melancon indicated she would be out of town for the next meeting.

8. Open Forum

Ms. Kathy Ahlen and Ms. Carmen Zampini are new members of the Buona Fortuna Lodge 2835 Sons of Italy in Pensacola. The Sons of Italy Lodge are interested in establishing a sister city relationship with Vicenza, Italy. The Lodge has a member who lived in Vicenza for seven years and recommended Vicenza because she lived and had contacts there.

Member Baker suggested looking at areas that are similar in size, have the same interests, commerce, and things that would help to sustain and provide a deeper relationship and encourage growth in the relationship.

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Chair Trelfa stated that UWF will have a short term faculty led delegation going to Italy in the summer. Also, the UWF Center for Cyber Security is concluding a new partnership agreement with the Jikei Group of Colleges that builds upon what's been done for twenty five years with the Jikei Group of Colleges in the area of social work. They were instrumental in getting the Japan House and the Japan Center established. The Jikei Group is coming right after Thanksgiving to work out the details of that partnership.

9. Adjourn

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

Texas youth asks city to teach her about Pensacola

Jake Newby

Pensacola News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

A curious Texas fifth-grader wants to learn more about Pensacola, and she's asking you, the citizen, to help her out.

The News Journal received a pair of letters in October from Bailee, a student of Rains Intermediate School in Emory, Texas. Bailee expressed interest in learning more about Pensacola, as her class is collectively studying the founding of America. If we do say so ourselves, Bailee sounds like a smart kid to start from the very beginning with America's oldest city.

Here's an excerpt from Bailey's letter to you, the citizens of Pensacola.

"We are studying about the founding of America and the early explorers. We would like to discover more about America too!" Bailee wrote. "I am asking your readers to send postcards or letters so I can learn more about your city. I thank you in advance as we look forward to studying more about our country."

This wide-eyed, bushy-tailed future difference maker also wrote a separate letter to our editor.

Bailee, so you know, Pensacola to-

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Letter

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day is best known as the home of the Blue Angels, the pride of the U.S. Navy, and for having some of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

Spanish conquistador Don Tristan de Luna founded Pensacola in August 1559, when he and a fleet of 1,500 colonists settled briefly in Pensacola Bay (which is only a handful of miles away from where our newspaper office is located today).

Unfortunately for de Luna, the settlement lasted only two years before a violent hurricane touched down and sunk the fleet. But, since he was here first, that makes Pensacola the oldest settlement in America! (Don't let St. Augustine tell you any different. They are the oldest continuously occupied settlement in America, but not the first.)

Over the course of the next 300 years, the Spanish, the French, the British and the United States laid claim to Pensacola. Pensacola is in the

Send mail to Bailee

Rains Intermediate

C/O Mrs. Kuch

PO Box 247

Emory, Texas 75440

western portion of Florida, which back then was its own province, known as Spanish West Florida.

Spain officially ceded Spanish West Florida to the United States in 1821 under the terms of the Adams-Onís Treaty, which both Spain and the U.S. signed in 1819. Pensacola would never fall under European control again and would join all of Florida in becoming the 27th state in America in 1845.

Bailee, we'll let the citizens of Pensacola tell you more about our city's history through the postcards and letters you requested. Our editor has already rallied a few of our favorite organizations in our city, and they will be sending some info to your school soon, so be on the lookout!

Until then, thank you for taking interest in the oldest city in America.