

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

January 23, 2019

10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Trelfa, Vice Chair, Laverne Baker, Beth Partington

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jena Melancon, Chair, Nan Harper

Others Present: Ms. Dottie Dubuisson

Staff: Elaine Mager

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Trelfa. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Minutes—October 24, 2018

*Note for the record—the International Relations Advisory Board did not meet in November or December

Motion made by Member Baker, seconded by Member Partington to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2018 meeting. The motion was unanimously carried.

3. Sister City Updates:

a) Gero Japan—Member Trelfa confirmed the visit of exchange students from Gero will be March 27 – April 4, 2019. There will be eleven boys, 8 girls and 3 chaperones. The usual activities are planned for the group while in Pensacola. Will coordinate a visit to City Hall with Mayor Robinson.

In addition, he will be leading a group of students for the annual summer study session in Japan in June and will plan to visit Gero sometime in July.

Member Baker announced the Japan America Society's Speaker Series event that features a noted potter will be held on February 5, 2019 at Pensacola State College from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

4. Galvez Essay Contest:

Member Partington provided an update on the Galvez Essay Contest. There were 40 entries submitted, and after preliminary review, six were judged. The winner of the contest is from Sacred Heart School. Changing the date for submittal worked much better for schools as well as student participation. Next year, a more formal scoring process will be used and hopefully the submittal process will stress the importance of following the instructions and checking to make sure all required elements are contained in the essay.

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Ms. Dottie Dubuisson suggested that consideration be given to make the essay contest a regional approach, to possibly include the Galvez committee and schools from Louisiana to participate in the contest as well as in Galvez celebration events that are held in Pensacola. It would help to broaden the knowledge of Galvez as well as encourage tourism between the regions.

Member Partington suggested that Ms. Dubuisson volunteer to join the committee and to contact Nan Harper, Chair of Pensacola Sister Cities.

5. New Business

a) Letter from City Council President

Staff reviewed the intent of the letter and that citizen input should be taken into consideration as issues are deliberated.

6. Open Forum

Ms. Dottie Dubuisson addressed the Board on several issues including concern about lack of meetings, how to get more publicity, broaden impact on what the Board does and international events that can be linked together. There is so much information to be shared.

7. Adjourn

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