

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

February 27, 2019

10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jena Melancon, Chair, Doug Trelfa, Vice Chair, Nan Harper, Laverne Baker, Beth Partington

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Others Present: Dr. Sally Crenshaw, Ms. Diane Peterson

Staff: Elaine Mager

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

2. Approval of Minutes—January 23, 2019

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

3. Selection—Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Melancon stated that it is good to rotate seats on the Board and therefore, she stepped down as Chair and **made a motion to nominate Vice Chair Doug Trelfa for Chair.**

Member Baker made a motion to nominate Beth Partington as Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Trelfa did indicate that he had a very busy travel schedule and would possibly be out of town for some of the meetings.

Member Harper made a motion to accept the nominations by acclamation. Both Members accepted the nominations and Vice Chair Trelfa assumed the Chair.

4. Sister City Updates:

a) Gero, Japan

The student delegation from Gero will be in Pensacola March 27 – April 4. They will meet with Mayor Robinson at 11 a.m. on April 1. Also a group will be going to Gero sometime in July.

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b) Escazu, Costa Rica--Presentation from Dr. Sally Crenshaw

Dr. Sally Crenshaw, retired Spanish teacher, has been active with the Costa Rica sister city relationship. Through that relationship, she was contacted by Frank Gutierrez from Costa Rica who was visiting Roberto Calderon, former resident of Escazu and now resides in the Pensacola community. Mr. Guitierrez is a biologist, with a great love for the environment. He founded a foundation called Oro Verde (Green Gold). The foundation is developing solutions for environmental concerns in Costa Rica and Central America. These concerns include water pollution, wastewater treatment, trash disposal, marine and coastal conservation. They have developed some solutions to meet these concerns, including environmental research, community development, waste management systems that focus on recycling and also environmental education. They have developed some programs for school children to understand the need for such conservation. His recent visit to Pensacola focused on beach clean-up and the technologies that are required for that. He was able to meet with several people while in the area. He would like very much for Oro Verde to be able to buy one of the sand rakes like those used at Pensacola Beach. Right now, their clean-up efforts are being done by hand. They involve a lot of volunteers, including school children, to help with clean up efforts. He was looking for support from Sister Cities for what they are doing and hope to accomplish. Also, any support from American foundations or government agencies to support the foundation and what they are doing would also be appreciated.

Mr. Guitierrez would also like to find a family for his 14 year old son to spend some time with and attend a Christian school in Pensacola.

c) Macharaviaya and Borobia, Spain

Member Harper reported that around May 8 there will be visitors from Macharaviaya coming to Pensacola.

Member Harper introduced Diane Peterson to report on her recent visit to Borobia, Spain.

Diane Peterson represented Pensacola Sister Cities on a recent visit to Borobia, Spain. She was warmly received by Mayor Pardo and the citizens of Borobia, Spain with a wonderful welcome celebration. Mayor Campos from Macharaviaya also joined in the celebration. She presented a Key to the City plaque from Mayor Hayward to Mayor Pardo at the ceremony, commemorating the establishment of a sister city relationship with Barobia. She shared her photos of her visit and historic sites of Borobia with the Board.

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5. New Business

a) PHS/Japanese Grad Students Visit

Chair Trelfa reported that UWF hosted 2 graduate students from Tsukuba University, Graduate School of Education and Social Sciences, one doing a dissertation on the International Baccalaureate program and the other on dual enrollment system. Florida was identified by their advisor as a leading edge state for these programs. Thanks to member Partington, they had a wonderful day at Pensacola High School where they learned a lot about the history of the IB program. PHS is one of the longest IB programs in the United States. They also traveled to the Melbourne area and Treasure Coast to visit some schools to continue their research.

Member Partington indicated that they interacted with PHS students at the IB Theory of Knowledge class. They visited an American school cafeteria and visited with global minded students. They would love to host any other visits or welcome students from Spain.

6. Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council Updates

Member Melancon reported on the Youth Diplomats program and the interactions they had with a group from Russia. Some of the students met with Armenians, some journalists from Pakistan. They worked on resume writing, immigration and migration issues and some of the students took advantage of an opportunity to meet with 17 different female entrepreneurs from 17 different countries. She was in Washington in January where she met with an officer who deals with grants and funding. She and World Chicago are working with him to see if they can take the Youth Diplomats program National. Also in January, the Gulf Coast Citizens Diplomacy Council started their Great Decisions Program.

Pensacola will also, once again, be host to an International Woman of Courage award winner in about 2 weeks. On Wednesday, March 13 at 12 Noon, a luncheon will be held for the International Woman of Courage at the Wright Place, United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$15 or \$120 for a table of eight.

In February, there was a Congressional exchange with a Russian delegation who are activists or local elected officials pushing for reform and not a member of Putin's party. The Department of State decided to put a hold on all exchanges in January and February because of the uncertainty of the government.

In March, April, May, and June there will be 20 different countries coming in on seven different projects.

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7. Open Forum

Member Harper informed the Board of the visit of the Juan Sebastian de Elcano to Pensacola from March 31 – April 5. It will be open to the public April 1 – 4. April 3 has been designated as a student visit day. There is an Elcano Society Membership, which is \$150 per person. Part of that membership entitles the member to attend a black tie reception aboard the ship. There will also be a reception at Seville Quarter. The ship is making a special effort to include students. Students involved with the Galvez contest will be invited. More information and acceptance of membership fees will be handled by the Fiesta of Five Flags office.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.