

**Modesto Sister Cities International
Board of Directors and Annual Members Meeting**

February 11, 2009

The meeting of the MSCI Board of Directors was called to order by President Paul Kuehn at 6:07 p.m.

In attendance

Oscar Ardans, Jennifer Ardans, James Bussey, Rao Cherukuri, Tom Durbin, Adrian Harrell, Nancy Holmes, Paul Kuehn, Cathy Line, Nancy McCoy, Vidhu Mehra, John Mensinger, Richard Navarro, Grant Swearingen and Barbara St. Urbain.

Additional attendees: Jared Maxwell and guest Anna, Sobha Cherukuri, Nirmala Patel, Bob LeCount, Bill Bishop, R.J. Moriconi, and Mike McGar.

Absent

Brenda Brannon and Kelly Gregerson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 14, 2009 board meeting were presented. A spelling error was noticed on the first line of the Khmelnitsky report. Richard Navarro motioned for the approval of the minutes as amended. Adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Adrian Harrell reviewed the January financial reports specifically noting some line items in the Profit & Loss vs. Budget report. Cathy Line motioned to accept the financial report as presented. Adopted with one abstention.

Program Manager's Report

The annual report to the City was turned in and a copy was circulated. The 2009 membership request letters were sent out and around 10-12 have been returned so far.

Old Business

- Barbara St. Urbain reviewed highlights of the event planning committee meeting. Outlines of details for the city committee heads were handed out. The networking event will be held March 13 at 6 pm at the MJC student lounge in the East Campus Student Center.
- Adrian Harrell presented a fireworks fundraising idea. There was some discussion but reaction seemed positive. The board agreed to have her investigate further.

New Business

- Paul Kuehn recognized Adrian Harrell for her hard work as Treasurer for MSCI.
- Oscar Ardans gave a presentation on the Khmelnitsky-Modesto relationship.
- Jim Bussey proposed using Channel 26, a public access channel, to promote MSCI. We have several promotional videos from our sister cities that could be used to begin. The board agreed to have Jim reserve a time slot.

Vernon Report

Brenda Brannon will be travelling to Vernon June 5th through the 15th. The Silver Start court from Vernon is unsure if they will be able to travel to Modesto again this October due to fundraising concerns.

Kurume

Nancy Holmes is still waiting to hear from KIEA on the exact dates for the exchange this year but they are still sending 10 students. No word on the budget from them either. Taki is working on airfare. The exchange press releases have run in the Modesto Bee and she has received several calls from interested students. Posters have been made and will be distributed this week. Nancy is continuing to work on the itinerary for the junior high students scheduled to be in Modesto March 26th.

Mengzi Report

Nancy McCoy presented an agreement document for Mengzi to the board. She will be going to Mengzi in July and Brad Hawn or Mayor Ridenour has been asked to be in Mengzi August 1st to sign the agreement. Oscar Ardans motioned to authorize Nancy to have the agreement document translated into Mandarin with an invitation to the Chinese to include any language they would like to see in it. Approved.

Vijayawada Report

Nothing new to report.

Aguascalientes Report

Grant Swearingen has contacted Cecelia Masa regarding a visit during the Feria in April. He and Councilman Lopez are planning to go to Aguascalientes April 25th through the 27th. Interested board members were encouraged to join the delegation.

Khmelnitsky Report

Oscar Ardans spoke with the principal of La Loma Junior High regarding the letter exchange. Khmelnitsky is starting to speak of an actual student exchange.

Laval Report

There has been no response from the Laval city government since Brad Hawn's visit but response from the La Mayenne government is still positive. Adrian Harrell is setting up the youth exchange again for this summer. They have had internship requests. John Mensinger is hoping to promote youth exchanges in a Modesto Bee column.

The next meeting was set for March 11, 2008 at 6 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.