

SISTER CITIES
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2017
5:30
ROOM 312 – HARTFORD TOWN HALL

Chair, Joan Ponzoni, called the meeting to order.

Present: Havah Walther, Sydney Paccione, Gillian Goodwin, Thatcher Hinman, Brenda Lamphere, Joan Ponzoni, Theresa Palis, Brett Mayfield, Kian Gillespie, Larry Rogers, Pat Stark, Gayle Ottmann

There was general conversation about Cenon, France and its role as a Sister City. Brett and Joan visited the city last year. As a result of their visit and continuing correspondence with their Cenon counterparts, the following topics were covered:

- *Cenon is a bedroom community of Bordeaux, France;
- *Population similar to Hartford;
- *Cenon has six Sister Cities but Hartford would be the first English-speaking community;
- *Joan visited classrooms; she and Brett would like to see a relationship between Hartford schools and Cenon schools; this could be done through an exchange program similar to the programs now at the high school;
- *The Cenon community is highly focused on culture and diversity; they have a wonderful Cultural Festival in November
- *Cenon hosts a popular marathon each year; it was suggested that runners might want to put together a team to participate in the Covered Bridges Half Marathon the first weekend in June

Joan has spoken to Bob Clavelle, Building and Trades at HACTC, who has done many student trips to Onago, Japan. In addition, he has set up a foundation to expedite these trips which he does every summer. Bob will come to a future meeting to discuss the ins and outs of setting up these trips. Joan also spoke with Meredith Jackson at Waldorf School in Quechee as she is also interested in the Sister City program.

The Selectboard will appoint a liaison to the Sister City Committee after May 1.

Review of By-Laws:

- *Brett made the motion to add “up to five members” in the paragraph pertaining to Selectboard appointments. Joan seconded. Motion carried.
- *The committee will follow the Rules for Committees/Commissions covering selection of Officers.
- *Anyone wishing to be on the Committee, can pick up an application from Lana in the Manager's Office.

Donations:

Brett is soliciting donations from area businesses for a box, basket, etc. to send to Cenon. He would like the focus to be on Vermont and Vermont products. Some suggestions include maple syrup, Quechee Balloon Festival items, Simon Pearce item, etc. It was suggested that Brett could send around an email list of ideas.

Minutes:

Havah will make the necessary corrections in the minutes from the last meeting.

MEETING DATE – MARCH 28, 2017 – 5:15PM

Gayle Ottmann
Note Taker