

**MINUTES of the Morgantown Sister Cities Commission (MSCC) Meeting  
June 18, 2013** (prepared by Betsy Pyle)

**ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners Present: Roz Becker, Betsy Pyle, Bill Byrne, Liz Finklea, George Lies, Rich Fleisher. Excused/Absent: John Gaddis, Peggy Myers-Smith, Helene Friedberg, Bethany Sypolt. Visitors: Jeff Ryan, Jingyi Cheng

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 4:15 PM by Bill Byrne, Vice Chair.

**VISITORS:** Mr. Byrne welcomed Jingyi “James” Cheng who is a visiting scholar from Xuzhou in China and working in Engineering at WVU. Jeff Ryan was also welcomed back to the meeting of the Sister Cities Commission.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the regular May meeting were distributed via email in advance of the meeting.

Motion by Ms. Finklea, second by Mr. Fleisher, to approve May minutes of the Morgantown Sister Cities Commission. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Friends of Guanajuato Social Gathering and WVU-U of G'to Exchange:** We plan to hold a self-host social event for Friends of Guanajuato at Mariachi Loco on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Ms. Becker contacted the restaurant to inform them of our intention to host a group dinner there. The manager was pleased to know we are coming. Ms. Becker agreed to draft a message for an Evite announcement to “Save the Date” for the Friends of G'to email list. Ms. Pyle agreed to ask John Gaddis if he would send out the message. Mr. Lies reminded us that the 6 faculty members from U of G'to would still be in Morgantown studying in the WVU Intensive English Program and could be invited to attend and introduced to the group. He will host a reception to welcome them on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Black Bear Restaurant downtown. He also stated that three people plan to go to G'to for the language exchange this summer: Claudia Gully who is an MHS counselor, Semoa De Souza Brown who is the outgoing study abroad coordinator for the OIP on campus, and Tim Warner who is a WVU Geology and Geography Professor. Mr. Lies also has a list of all former outgoing G'to language exchange participants and will invite them.

**New Commission Members:** Ms. Sypolt could not attend the meeting but left information in the conference room for commissioners. She also reminded all commissioners beginning new terms that they need to stop by her office to take their oath of office. Mr. Lies stated that he had been unable to speak directly with Ms. Myers-Smith to see if she plans to continue as an active commission member. He will try again. A city council member will be appointed to fill the seat on the commission that has been held by Mr. Byrne for the past few years when the new council is seated in July. The commissioners discussed the need to fill the seat on the commission being vacated by John Gaddis's resignation.

Motion by Ms. Pyle, second by Ms. Becker, to recommend Jeff Ryan be appointed a member of the Morgantown Sister Cities Commission. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

Once again commissioners were reminded that at the next meeting we will take up the matter of appointing officers because the key leadership roles will need to be filled. Commissioners were encouraged to think about who would be willing to take on leadership of the commission.

**Xuzhou Delegation in Morgantown:** Mr. Lies distributed a tentative itinerary for the group of 21 Xuzhou faculty would visit Morgantown from July 21 – 26. Dr. Sun and Dr. Jerry Fletcher, two WVU faculty members, are involved in making the arrangements. They are here for energy related work and to understand how higher education functions in the USA. Mr. Lies will meet with them to be a liaison between WVU OIP, Morgantown Sister Cities Commission, and the work of these two WVU professors. The Morgantown Sister Cities Commission would like to co-host a reception while they are here. We discussed doing this on Monday July 22 from 5-7 PM. Possible venues included Zen Café or Euro Suites where the delegation is staying. More planning will take place via email.

**Community Education Materials:** We discussed the need to have an “on the shelf” program ready that any commissioner could use to give a presentation to community groups to educate them about the goals of the Morgantown Sister City Commission, and its relationships with Guanajuato Mexico and Xuzhou China. Several commissioners (Mr. Fleisher, Ms. Becker, Ms. Pyle) have direct experience with G’to and Zhengjun Wang and Jeff Ryan are good resources for further information on Xuzhou. The materials would include photos in a powerpoint presentation and accompanying script that could be the base of a presentation for any group. It needs to include geographic aspects – where the places are, why we are interested in them, and the cultural aspects associated with those places that make them interesting to us. Ms. Pyle commented that she had a program prepared that she gave to Rotary Clubs in the Morgantown area that could be used as a starting point. She will work with Ms. Becker and Mr. Fleisher and they will coordinate with Mr. Ryan and Mr. Wang regarding Xuzhou China.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

We may change the date of the July meeting as several commissioners are out of town.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, July 16th, 2013 at 4:00 PM** in the **CONFERENCE ROOM** of the **Public Safety Building**. (Meeting room has been confirmed.) Additions or corrections? Please email them to Betsy at [betsypyle@comcast.net](mailto:betsypyle@comcast.net)