

Fairhope Sister City Committee

Minutes for September 23, 2014

In Attendance (5):

City Councilman Jack Burrell, Ed Lamonte, Jeanine Normand, Judy Kirkland and Linda Speed

Update from Councilman Burrell:

The City Council approved a Sister City Committee budget of \$5,000.00 for 2015. It is to be used for fees for one or two members to attend the annual Sister City International Convention, any Educational Forums, and room/board for visitors our committee invites to Fairhope. It is not to be used for travel for committee members.

Rhos on Sea, Wales –

1. Linda reported that we did not receive answers to our four questions and were referred instead to Derwena Watkin, the Assistant Principal of Marketing and Enterprise, by John Jones. He felt that she was better qualified to answer our questions. Linda received this information on Monday, September 22nd – the night before this meeting.
2. We discussed the issue of the Prince Madoc story (truth versus legend). We discussed the fact that our archeologists and historians in Alabama have found no evidence of this story and whether this puts us in a difficult position with the people of Rhos on Sea who consider it to be fact.
3. Linda will write to Derwena Watkin and ask her if she can answer our questions.

Linda spoke to **SCI (Sister City International)** about comparable cities to Fairhope around the world which might be interested in an alliance and asked for recommendations.

1. SCI reported that there's been a change in Europe. EU cities now only want alliances with other EU cities except for a couple of places in Eastern Europe. They mentioned Croatia and Bulgaria in the Balkans.
2. SCI also reported that the EU covers all countries in Europe except Norway. Norway is not a member of the EU. SCI explained that they do have a Norway connection through the UN should we be interested in their help pursuing an alliance.
3. Countries they suggested included Eastern Europe (Balkans – Croatia or Bulgaria), Africa, Latin America, and East Asia. They also mentioned the Bahamas, Panama, Argentina, and Chile.
4. Judy will report on the Bahamas and Panama; Ed on East Asia; Jeanine on Chile and Argentina; and, Linda on Croatia, Bulgaria and Iceland.

Councilman Burrell said we will stick to our original deadline of Christmas for selecting our first Sister City. **As a result, we will have three more critical meetings before Christmas: October 21st, November 25th and December 9th at 4 PM.** Please let us know ASAP if you have a problem with any of these dates.

Linda D. Speed, Chairman