

SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Carolyn Basford, Chair.

Members present were Cindy Clay, Mike Vacchiano, Mary Pizza. Members excused were Phil McLaughlin, Marilyn Hoback, Suzie Holloway. Guest: Linda Spears, Luxury Travel Advisor from Huffman Travel.

Carolyn reported that there is a new Clerk of Council, Carin Andrews. Her email address is candrews@centervilleohio.gov.

Mary Pizza reported that her home number is no longer in service. Cell phone # is 937-307-0037. Also, ATT internet service will be changing by the end of March, so correct email is Pizzamom10@gmail.com

TREASURERS REPORT: Due to Phil's absence, there was no report on our Sister City account balance with the City. Sister City International dues were paid in January from the 2016 budget.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Sister Cities: We still have not had replies from potential Sister Cities in either Canada or Ireland. Salaberry De Valleyfield, Canada is still pending. John Beals has been in contact with this city.

NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteer Salute: The annual Volunteer Salute will take place on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at Yankee Trace. Carolyn reports that Cindy Clay has been nominated by our committee for Volunteer Person of the Year.

Publicity for July, 2017 Trip to Bad Zwischenahn: Carolyn contacted Maureen Russell Hodgson regarding placing articles in the next issue of the *Town Crier*. They are due by April 29, 2016, however that issue does not come out until June. Maureen also suggested that we tape a report on the trip for the *Centerville Reports* to advertise it to the community and invite others to join the trip with us.

July, 2017 Trip to Bad Zwischenahn: Linda Spears, our Luxury Travel Advisor from Huffman Travel discussed possible River Cruises following our visit in Bad Zwischenahn. Our tentative dates for the visit in Bad Z are Thursday, July 13, 2017 (leave Dayton) to Monday, July 17, (leave Bad Z). We discussed 2 options for River Cruises. The options that best coincided with these dates were Viking River Cruises "Elegant Elbe", and "Rhine Get-A-Way". We also discussed a Lyon to Provence cruise in France, but after contacting Viking Cruises, Linda found that these dates did not match well with the dates of our visit to Bad Z, and also that particular cruise is already heavily booked.

It is in our best interest to book our reservations as soon as possible to get the best airfare rates and availability of cabins on the ship that we choose.

Linda presented the cost of the trips for "Elegant Elbe" and "Rhine Get-A-Way". Additional expenses would include trip insurance, a bus or train from Bad Z to Berlin or Amsterdam, an extra night in Berlin, and increases in airfare.

We decided that we need to schedule another meeting with everyone present as soon as possible to make a definite decision about the trip and begin to advertise it to the public. We will then send letters to other City of Centerville Volunteers as well as families of the students who have participated in the Gappies program, and to those who have travelled with us in the past.

The meeting was adjourned, and Carolyn will contact us regarding a special meeting to make firm plans for the July, 2017 trip to Bad Z. **The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 7:00 PM** at the Centerville Police headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Pizza, Secretary