

City of Cambridge

The Sister City Committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, April 25, 1990 beginning at 12:10 p.m. in the Ackermann Room, City Hall.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair of the above referenced Committee convened the hearing and introduced Committee member Francis H. Duehay to those assembled. Councillor Myers stated that this date's agenda would include discussions on the topic of coordination and suggested guidelines and criteria to be employed in this establishment of future sister city relationships. At this time the Chair introduced Ms. Rosanne Royer, formerly a member of the Seattle, Washington/Tashkent, U.S.S.R. Sister City Committee and now a resident of the City of Cambridge to those in attendance.

Councillor Duehay provided an historical overview of the establishment of the various Sister City relationships and outlined some of the successes enjoyed as well as some of the potentials that have not been realized to date. He further stated that virtually no city monies have been allocated or expended for these Committees.

At this time, the Committee heard from Ms. Royer for an outline of the mechanism employed by the City of Seattle in the establishment of a Sister City Committee, the coordination of the fourteen various affiliations and recommendations for the organizational structure to be reviewed by this City Council Committee.

Ms. Royer spoke of her firm belief in the potentials to be realized through Sister City relationships. She spoke on such opportunities as trade and constituency as well as the learning experiences. In outlining the formal structure employed by the City of Seattle through its Office of International Affairs in the Executive Department, Ms. Royer stated that it serves both to encourage and discourage as well as the municipal vehicle for coordination and support. She spoke of the need of inclusiveness in determining the ethnic make-up of a Sister City Committee. Through this multi-ethnic diversity comes about a diversity of ties (business, medicine, etc.).

Councillor Myers questioned if there were any unexpected benefits realized through a coordinated effort. In response, Ms. Royer stated through the intermingling the various Committees every two months, there is an exchange of ideas and experiences that have proved beneficial.

Ms. Royer then cited some disappointments with the operations of the Internal Affairs Department such as limited clerical support and lack of faxing abilities.

On the topic of structure, Ms. Royer suggested that after the Committee is formed it commit itself to be financially self sufficient through its various activities.

At this time, Councillor Myers steered the discussion towards the area of needs and benefits of the various Sister City Committees.

Mr. David Grosser, representing the San Jose Las Flores Committee, reported to the Committee on the recently held telethon.

Councillor Duehay commented that the telethon reached deeply into the community with much needed information and education.

Ms. Deborah Welsh, representing the Yerevan Committee, commenting on what was needed, suggested that a theme or concept be defined to bond and interwine the various Sister City Committees.

As a continuing step in the process of preparing formalized guidelines and criteria, the Chair requested of the Deputy City Clerk to contact the City of Seattle for any and all information on their Sister City policies.

The hearing was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

For the Committee


Councillor Jonathan S. Myers
Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report from Sister Cities Committee for a hearing held on Wednesday, April 25, 1990 to discuss the topic of coordination and suggested guidelines and criteria to be employed in the establishment of future sister city relationships.

In City Council,

June 11, 1990

Report accepted

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Placed on file