

City of Cambridge

The Sister City Committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, March 28, 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 Councillor Francis H. Duehay to those assembled. Councillor Myers stated the purpose of this date's proceedings were to include discussions on the preparation of a centralized sister city budget and to receive a goal and objective statement from various sister city relationships.

Upon completion of the Chair's opening remarks, Councillor Duehay commented on the present financial uncertainties that the City will be facing in the present and upcoming fiscal year and cautioned that funding might not be so readily available for a centralized department or agency. He further stated that given the fact that overtures have been made to further extend sister city relationships with Krakow, Poland, Ireland, Sub-Saharan Africa and the West Bank, that a more formalized process is needed before entering into any new arrangement(s). He also stated that a coordinator position, if recommended, should not be charged with the responsibility of undertaking the workings of each Committee but serve as a link or facilitator with the City of Cambridge.

Councillor Myers stated that there presently exists a need for greater lines of communications between the City and the various sister city relationships.

Ms. Hidemi Baughman, representing the Tsukuba, Japan Committee concurred that reform was needed but could not happen until a vehicle was established and direction given by the City.

Mr. Ruben Cabral, representing the Coimbra, Portugal Committee stated that it is difficult to establish relationships with European cities due to the lack of financial commitment by the City.

Ms. Cathy Hoffman, Executive Director of the Peace Commission, cited possible sources of revenues to include the Mayor's operating budget and the development of a plan to include: a) trade; and, b) tourism (Discovery, Chamber of Commerce). She further stated that the City's role in supporting and nurturing a relationship should include access, cooperation and assistance.

Councillor Myers cited the need for the development of an overall strategy to deal with the issue of coordination before discussing the components in specific terms.

At this time the Committee heard of the need for greater continuity of Commitment on the part of the City towards existing sister city relationships not withstanding changes in the membership of the City Council or in the Office of the Mayor.

Councillor Myers then steered the discussion towards the process employed in designating a Sister City Relationship and what factors such as guidelines, criteria, etc., fit into this process.

Ms. Hoffman commented that different reasons, different goals play a factor in the designation factor.

Councillor Duehay, through the Chair, requested of the various Committees to prepare, for the next meeting, a background report to include the history of origination; frustrations; successes; accomplishments, and, future goals and expectations. The Chair concurred with the request.

Mr. Cabral previewed the upcoming Student Exchange Program at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School for the Committee.

The hearing was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

For the Committee


Councillor Jonathan S. Myers
Chair

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report from Councillor Jonathan S. Myers,
Chairman of the Sister City Committee,
relative to the preparation of a central-
ized sister city budget and to review a
goal and objective statement from various
sister city relationships.

In City Council,

April 23, 1990

*Report accepted
and placed on
file*