City of Cambridge

The Sister Cities Committee held a public meeting on May 1, 1997, beginning at 2:30 pm in the Ackermann Room for the purpose of receiving a report from the Mayor regarding the recent creation of a sister-city relationship with Galway, Ireland, and considering the process for establishing sister city relationships and any other business before the committee.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair of the Committee, Mayor Sheila T. Russell, Councillor Michael A. Sullivan and City Clerk D. Margaret Drury.

Councillor Reeves convened the hearing and explained the purpose. He reviewed the items before the committee and stated that in addition to receiving a report on Galway and considering the overall process of the creation of sister city relationships, the Committee has pending the proposal to create a sister city relationship with Anquing, China. In addition, he noted that the degree of misinformation contained in the recent Cambridge Chronicle article on Cambridge's sister cities raises the question of whether the committee should attempt some public education or at least correction of misinformation regarding the sister city program.

Councillor Reeves invited suggestions from committee members regarding the next steps with regard to the Anquing petition.

Councillor Sullivan observed that this sister city relationship is being proposed by a local business which does business in Anquing. He noted that there are a variety of reasons for establishing sister cities and stated that supporting a local business, as an economic development strategy, seems like a reasonable basis for going forward on a sister city proposal. He stated that on the Galway trip he learned that in the next few years international business and the need for municipalities to pay attention to international business is going to grow beyond anything now imaginable.

Councillor Reeves noted that the Anquing proposal is also supported by scientists associated with Harvard Medical School. He questioned whether is it is really best to continue an ad-hoc approach to adding new sister cities. He stated that Seattle, which does a good job in its sister city programs has a policy for evaluating whether particular cities should become sister cities which is worth looking at. Councillor Reeves stated that he used the Seattle policy as the basis for the draft policy he has prepared for consideration by the committee. Attachment A.

Councillor Sullivan asked whether the present sister cities meet the criteria set out in the proposed policy. Councillor Reeves said that he believes that all present sister city relationships would be grandfathered regardless of whether they meet the new criteria. Tskuba, Gaeta, Yerevan, Coimbra, Crotone Galway and San Jose Las Flores would all fit the criteria. Bulaweyo is not an official sister city.

Councillor Reeves stated that there seem to be some characteristics of a good relationship. One such characteristic is the existence of a committee in Cambridge and a committee in the sister city. He noted that the Cambridge draft and the Seattle policy on which it is based, contain the requirement for a formal organization which will enable the City to stay in touch with the local committee. He described the difficulty a former Mayor's office staff member had in attempting to contact all of the committees in Cambridge. Some were defunct and others had not met for years.

It was agreed without objection that the committee will recommend that the City Council adopt the Cambridge Sister Cities Policy set forth in Attachment A.

Councillor Reeves stated that Sister Cities International has a process to designate official sister cities. It might be useful for Cambridge to look into participating in this process.

Discussion then turned to the new sister city of Galway, Ireland. Councillor Reeves thanked Mayor Russell for her report on the history of the negotiations and on the recent sister city visit of the Cambridge delegation to Galway. Attachment B. He noted that the report contains a letter from Shawn Murphy, Greenworks, Inc., Cambridge, describing the business opportunities which may become available due to the relationship established through the sister city project. Councillor Reeves asked what will happen in two years if the Cambridge-Galway Sister City Agreement is not renewed.

Councillor Sullivan stated that he believes that the relationship will last beyond the two-year period of the agreement. Galway's interest in a sister city relationship with Cambridge at the moment is very connected to the European Union. There are several American companies in Ireland, some Massachusetts-based. Until at least 1999, when the European Union elections will occur, he believes that the relationship will be maintained.

Councillor Reeves asked Mayor Russell whether she anticipated sister city requests from any other cities in Ireland. Mayor Russell said that she has had discussions with business persons from Limerick who have expressed interest in some exchange programs.

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Councillor Sullivan asked whether the City is really ready to expand its sister city program or even to deepen its involvement with its current sister cities. He stated that to do a good job could be expensive.

Councillor Reeves agreed that there are costs associated with the sister city program, although there is also the possibility of donations and fundraising by the individual sister city committee. During one of the years that he was Mayor, there was a small allocation in the budget for staff support work and for some mailing expenses of the individual sister city committees. He stated that these funds did assist the existing committees.

Mayor Russell agreed that the entire program could benefit from some city staff support to coordinate the committees. She stated that at the May 5, 1997 Council meeting, the City Council will have before it her order requesting that the City Manager provide funding in the FY98 budget for a part-time staff person to provide this type of support.

Councillor Sullivan asked in what department the position should be located.

Councillor Reeves said that the delegations from other countries automatically look to the Mayor 's office, so it would be logical for the position to be in that office, although it could also be a City Council function.

Council Sullivan said that the position could work with the Sister Cities Committee of the City Council.

Councillor Reeves stated that he did not know whether this position ought to be part-time or full-time. He noted that the employee will have to create the program. A talented staff person could go far toward making the program one that Cambridge can be proud of. An uninspired staff person would be an embarrassment.

Mayor Russell agreed that it would be important to get the right kind of person for this position. She said that she believes a good part-time employee could make a big improvement.

It was agreed without objection that the committee will recommend that the City Council request that the City Manager allocate funds for a part-time position for a staff person to coordinate the sister city program.

Discussion then returned to the Anquing, China, proposal. It was agreed without objection that if the City Council adopts the policy as recommended by the committee, the City Clerk will so inform the Anquing delegation and they will be invited to pursue further discussions in accord with this policy.

Councillor Reeves thanked those present for their attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

For the Committee

Kenneth E. Reeves

Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves,
Chair

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(DISCUSSION DRAFT)

PROPOSED CAMBRIDGE SISTER CITIES POLICY

The initiative to establish a sister city relationship is taken by a group of citizens in our community.

To promote the most meaningful relationships, prospective sister cities should have some commonalities with Cambridge. They should be cities that are historic, have major educational institutions or some similar economic characteristics. An organization must have a broad community base that is not exclusively composed of citizens with the same ethnic heritage as the prospective sister city. Other requirements are a formal incorporated structure with officers and functional committees, a work plan, and budget for the first year of formal affiliation, and a counterpart group in the foreign sister city or a positive indication of participation from its government.

Each association plans its own activities and projects, working with counterparts overseas. The associations operate independently with volunteer memberships and with some assistance from Cambridge's coordinator of sister cities.

Activities are funded through membership dues, corporate sponsorship, individual donations, fund-raising activities, and a small yearly sum allocated by the City of Cambridge.

B

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
(617) 349-4321
Fax (617) 349-4287

Sheila Doyle Russell
Mayor

April 27, 1997

Report on Sister City Agreement
City of Galway, Ireland

Background:

At its meeting of March 25, 1996, the Cambridge City Council adopted an order directing the Mayor to lead and effort to establish a sister-city relationship with an Irish municipality. Subsequent to the City Council order, the Mayor's office received a delegation from the City of Galway on Monday, June 10, 1996 which included Galway Mayor Michael OhUiginn. Based on discussion of common interests, resources and historical connections shared by Galway and Cambridge, Mayor Russell and Mayor OhUiginn agreed to explore the possibility of a sister city relationship between the two cities.

Mayor OhUiginn was replaced by Mayor John Mullholland, but continued to serve on the Galway City Council. Mayor Mullholland and Councillor OhUiginn petitioned the Galway City Council to adopt a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a sister city agreement with the City of Cambridge. The Galway City Council unanimously adopted the order at its meeting of September 4, 1996.

The Mayor's Office contacted Sister Cities International to explore potential areas of exchanges successfully executed in similar sister city arrangements. The Mayor also received assistance from the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association in developing a draft sister city agreement between Galway and Cambridge.

Officials from the Galway corporation explored potential areas of exchange with Galway officials and with other interested parties in Galway, including the Industrial Development Agency of Ireland, the Galway Chamber of Commerce and the Westbic Business and Innovation Center. Comments received were discussed by Galway Corporation staff and Office of the Mayor staff. The discussions identified the following areas for potential exchange:

Manufacturing Technology
Building Trades/Arts
Student Exchanges
Famine History
Genealogy

The Office of the Mayor drafted a sister city agreement, which was approved by the Galway City Council in February, 1997. The Cambridge City Council approved the draft agreement at its meeting of February 24, 1997.

The Cambridge City Council approved a request from the Mayor, made in accordance with the City Council Travel Policy, to travel to Galway between March 5, 1997 and March 12, 1997 to execute a sister city agreement. The sister city agreement between Galway and Cambridge was signed by Mayor Russell and Mayor Mullholland in Galway City Hall on March 6, 1997. The agreement went into affect on March 17, 1997 for a period of two years.

Business in Ireland

Once plans to travel to Galway were confirmed, several requests for meetings from other Ireland municipalities were received. Preliminary discussions with the City of Limerick regarding a sister city relationship had taken place in tandem with the Galway discussion. The regional director of Economic Development for Limerick invited Mayor Russell to meet the city officials of Limerick during her trip to Ireland. In addition, the Town of Tralee invited Mayor Russell to meet the Town Council and visit the memorial to Rose Kennedy in the Tralee public garden. The Town of Tralee is also a center of famine history and is in the process of restoring a "coffin ship" which brought many County Kerry residents from Ireland to the United States during the worst years of the Irish Famine. Members of the Tralee Town Council discussed the possibility of a sister city relationship with the City of Cambridge with Mayor Russell

With the assistance of the Irish Immigration Center of Boston, the Mayor was invited to meet with President Mary Robinson in Dublin to discuss the sister city relationship with Galway and to hear about the plans for the Irish Famine Memorial at the Cambridge Common. President Robinson, a former student at Harvard, stated that she understood the importance of erecting the monument at such a prominent location as the Cambridge Common.

Itinerary:

The Mayor was accompanied on official business in Ireland by City Councillor Michael Sullivan and Deputy Superintendent of School Dr. Patrick Murphy and her Chief of Staff David R. Goode. In addition, Shawn Murphy, Vice President of Greenworks, Inc. of Cambridge was invited as part of the official delegation. Mr. Murphy is a member of the Executive Committee of the Irish Famine Memorial Committee. In addition, Mr.

Murphy participated in business technology exchange discussions in Galway and Waterford.[1] The Mayor attended numerous meetings regarding exchanges between the Cambridge and Galway. In addition, meetings were held to explore relationships outside of Galway. The full itinerary of Mayor Russell's travel to Ireland is as follows:

March 6, 1997 - Arrive Galway

- Meeting with Galway City Manager/Mayor
- Sign Sister City Agreement
- Reception with City Officials
- Dinner Meeting - Presentation of First Payment to Irish Famine Memorial Artist by Cambridge Irish Famine Memorial Committee

March 7, 1997

- Meeting with Galway Chamber of Commerce, Galway Technology Center and Business Innovation Center
- Meeting with Galway Industrial Development Agency
- Galway Irish Crystal Tour - Meeting with Marketing Director
- Meeting with St. Mary's Secondary School Principal

March 8, 1997

- Travel to Tralee
- Meeting with Tralee Town Council
- Reception with Town Officials

March 9, 1997

- Travel to Cork

March 10, 1997

- Travel to Dublin
- Dinner meeting with Peter Gilbourne - Parcard International

March 11, 1997

- Meeting with St. Andrews College - US. Student Exchange Program
- Lunch Meeting with Dublin Officials - Irish Parliament
- Reception with Mayor of Dublin
- Reception with President Mary Robinson - Aras an Uachtarain
  Discussion of Sister City Relationships
  Presentation and Discussion of Cambridge Irish Famine Memorial

March 12, 1997

- Return Travel to Cambridge

Post Travel Action

On Friday, March 14, 1997 the Mayor hosted a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at City Hall to celebrate the signing of sister city agreement between Cambridge and Galway. Irish entertainment was featured and the sister city agreement and the crystal lamp gift from the people of Galway to the people of Cambridge was placed on display.

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[1] Please see the attached letter from Shawn Murphy

On Friday, March 14, 1997 Mayor Russell met with Michael White, Director of the Mid West Region of Forbairt, a private economic development company based in Limerick. Additional discussions about additional exchange programs were discussed.

The Office of the Mayor has continued exchange correspondence with Galway Officials since her return to Cambridge. The Office of the Mayor is facilitating a journal submission to the Western Health Board comparing nursing care in the Cambridge area to nursing care in Galway County. In addition, the Office of the Mayor is gathering information on entrepreneurship curriculum in local colleges at the request of the WESTBIC Business and Innovation Center to assist their efforts to improve entrepreneurship training in post secondary education.

Next Steps

The Office of the Mayor is exploring organizational structures to facilitate an exchange program with Galway and other Irish municipalities. Options under consideration include an incorporated 501-c-3 non-profit corporation. Access to funding, including grantsmanship or membership fees or both will be considered in organizing a sister city exchange organization.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Russell

Sheila Doyle Russell
Mayor

From the desk of

Shawn T. Murphy

Vice President, C.O.O.

Greenworks Inc.

To: Mayor Sheila Doyle-Russell

Date: April 02,1997

Subject: Cambridge/Galway Sister City Program

Once again thank you for including me as part of the official Cambridge/Galway sister city delegation. Due largely to your efforts Greenworks Inc. has now established business contacts throughout the Republic of Ireland. Successful items include:

1. Dialogue between Greenworks Inc., a privately financed business development center located in Cambridge, and The Galway Technology Centre, a comparable county financed business development center. Items to be exchanged include technical and business support and introduction to American investors.
2. A prototype hydrofluoric etching process was introduced to the Waterford Crystal Co., developed by Greenworks Business Center's. Bright Technology. This product may potentially revolutionize the cleaning and polishing of Waterford Crystal!

As grateful as we are for the business opportunities, we may be even more thankful for the international exposure granted to the "Cambridge Irish Famine Memorial". As you have witnessed Maurice Harron's proposed monument was met with unanimous and emotional approval, from Galway Mayor John Mulholland to President Mary Robinson.

In closing, it was my privilege to participate in such a worthwhile venture.

Sincerely,

Shawn T. Murphy

Shawn T. Murphy.

Committee Report #1 S-3/3

A Communication was received from D. Margaret drury, City Clerk, transmitting a report from the Sister Cities Committee for a meeting held on May 1, 1997 for the purpose of considering a report from the Mayor regarding the recent creation of a sister city relationship with Galway, Ireland, and establishing a sister city relationship process and any other business before the committee.

In City Council May 19, 1997

Report Accepted
Policy Adopted

PLACED ON FILE

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