

City of Cambridge

The Sister-City Committee held a hearing on Friday, January 10, 1997 at two o'clock and forty-five minutes p.m. in the Ackermann Room, City Hall, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Present at the meeting were Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves, Chair of the Committee; Councillors Michael A. Sullivan and Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.; Mayor Sheila Russell; Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk; Geoffrey Duyk from Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and John Teng from American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc.

Councillor Reeves opened the meeting by stating that the purpose was to discuss the sister-city process and hear the request for a sister-city relationship with Anqing and Zaozhuang, China. He stated that the City of Cambridge has a sister-city relationship with at least seven other cities including Coimbra, Portugal; Gaeta, Italy; Cretone, Italy; Yerevan, Armenia; Tsukuba, Yatabe, Japan; San Jose Las Flores, El Salvador; Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Councillor Reeves stated that the sister-city relationship was often established because residents came from their homeland and settled in Cambridge and requested the sister-city relationship with their home cities. The quality of the sister-city relationship is based on our residents going to our sister-city and residents of the sister-city in turn visiting Cambridge. There needs to be an established group of people from the both cities who are willing to keep up the relationship. He stated that the most costly expense is the transportation and that the City of Cambridge is unable to incur this cost. In addition, usually the city presents a gift which is another cost.

Councillor Sullivan questioned the funding for the sister-city relationship with Tsukuba, Japan. Councillor Reeves responded that the Japanese portion of the relationship is fully funded by Japan.

The committee heard from Geoffrey Duyk, Vice President, Genomics, Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc. He stated that Millennium has a scientific and educational collaboration with the city of Anqing in the province of Anhui, China. The collaboration includes researchers from Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Millennium's relationship is with Harvard and the studies have been done through Harvard's Department of Public Health. Millennium and Anqing are developing a partnering relationship. Mr. Duyk stated that Anqing is an educational city. He stated that it is primarily an agricultural center at this time.

The committee heard from John M. Teng, American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc., who told the committee that he was born in Zaozhuang, China and ran away as a young boy in 1948. He felt that a sister-city relationship with Cambridge was good because of cultural, educational and technological reasons. He would like a joint business venture as well as a sister-city relationship with the City of Cambridge, he said. He said that the City of Zaozhuang could do a lot of business with the City of Cambridge.

Councillor Reeves asked Mr. Duyk if the research being conducted by Millennium is on people. Mr. Duyk stated that Millennium's interest is to develop cures for particular diseases. A primary attraction to this part of China is the high rate of asthma in Anqing. Other fields of

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Councillor Reeves stated that there needs to be follow up by both groups. It is more substantive than just selecting a city, he said. Criteria for selection need to be developed, he stated. Mr. Duyk stated that Millennium must sustain the sister-city relationship because of its business relationship with Anqing, China. Millennium has benefitted beyond the business perspective of the pharmaceutical market.

Councillor Sullivan asked if the government of China is involved with the sister-city relationship request. Mr. Duyk stated that only the Bureau of Public Health is involved. Councillor Sullivan asked how long this relationship has existed. Mr. Duyk responded that the relationship has been in existence for three and a half years.

Councillor Sullivan asked about the immigration of the Chinese population from China to Cambridge. Mr. Duyk responded that some of the Anqing population are students currently living in the city of Cambridge. Councillor Reeves asked Mr. Teng if there is a Chinese population from Zaozhuang in the City of Cambridge. Mr. Teng responded in the negative. Mr. Teng stated that American Medical Resources Foundation, Inc. is a charitable venture which supports work in sixty-two countries and has volunteers working outside the country. He stated that the Chinese government would not allow two sister-city relationships.

Councillor Reeves asked Mr. Teng if his business is involved with used medical equipment. Mr. Teng responded that used equipment is picked up, fixed up and shipped out of the country.

Councillor Reeves stated that the Committee needs a proposal to consider. He expressed caution because of the importance of a group in both cities to continue the relationship. He told of a reporter who went to Coimbra, Portugal and discovered that citizens did not know that they had a sister-city relationship with Cambridge. Councillor Reeves stated that the city with the most advanced sister-city relationships is Seattle, Washington.

Councillor Reeves stated that the criteria should also include the benefit to the children of the city.

Mr. Teng asked if there is an international trade department in Cambridge to have a joint business venture with Zaozhuang. Councillor Reeves responded that the Community Development Department is involved with issues of the economic development. The Chamber of Commerce, he informed Mr. Teng, would help him contact local firms in the city.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Councillor Reeves stated that another meeting of the Sister Cities Committee will be held in February. It was agreed that at the next meeting, a formal proposal from both Anqing and Zaozhuang, China would be presented with criteria outlined in a letter of request outlining the criteria including a presentation, references and the development of the exchange of the Sister Cities.

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The meeting adjourned at three o'clock and fifteen minutes p.m.

For the Committee

Kenneth E. Reeves
Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves *dmj*
Chair

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Councillor Reeves asked Mr. Duyk if the research being conducted by Millennium is on people. Mr. Duyk stated that Millennium's interest is to develop cures for particular diseases. A primary attraction to this part of China is the high rate of asthma in Anqing. Other fields of study are schizophrenia and obesity.

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For the Committee

Kenneth E. Reeves
Councillor Kenneth E. Reeves *dmj*
Chair

Committee Report #1

S-169

A report was received from the Sister-City Committee, for the purpose of discussing the sister-city process and the request for a sister-city relationship with the City of Anqing and the City of Zaozhuang, China.

In City Council March 24, 1997

Report Accepted

as amended,

Placed on file on

motion of

Councillor Reeves.