

City of Cambridge

The Sister City Committee conducted a public hearing on Friday, March 2, 1990 beginning at 12:05 p.m. in the Ackermann Room, City Hall.

The purpose of this hearing was to discuss the coordination of the various Sister City relationships as well as to receive a list of upcoming events to be sponsored by the various entities.

Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair of the above referenced Committee convened the hearing and introduced the members of the Committee to those assembled. Councillor Myers stated that it was the desire of the Committee to better understand the workings and goals of the various Sister City relationships and to see how this Committee could assist in the coordination and facilitation of information about each relationship to the citizens of Cambridge.

At this time, the Committee heard from Ms. Carol Yourman, representing the San Jose las Flores Committee. Ms. Yourman explained the conditions that the residents numbering between 1100-1200 (of which about 50% is children) of this isolated village have been forced to endure because of the military. Ms. Yourman further explained that the Committee has been actively engaged in raising funds for such basic human needs as food, medicine, livestock, seeds and educational materials. The Committee has also tried to inform and educate the citizens of Cambridge of the happenings in this village. Ms. Yourman also outlined some of the problems that have been encountered by the various official delegations traveling to El Salvador.

Ms. Yourman then proceeded to explain the upcoming Telethon to be cablecast on Wednesday, April 4, 1990 between the hours of 5:00 - 11:30 p.m. on Municipal Access Channels: 37, 54, 55 and 66.

Councillor Myers requested of Ms. Yourman her opinion regarding the designation of an individual to serve as a central staff person to all of the Committees. Ms. Yourman agreed with the idea and thought it could be an asset to the various Committees.

Ms. Ellen Mass of 104A Inman Street spoke of the successes enjoyed by the Cities of Rochester, New York and Baltimore, Maryland in doing centralized fundraising.

Mr. Gerald Boyle of the Tsukuba, Japan Committee supported the concept of a staff person rather than a lump sum allotment for each Sister City relationship.

Mayor Alice K. Wolf concurred that a staff person could be of assistance in organizing and lending administrative support.

Councillor Myers then steered the dialogue towards the procedure and/or process presently in place for the establishment of Sister City relationships.

Ms. Cathy Hoffman, Executive Director of the Peace Commission and member of the Las Flores Committee stressed the need of flexibility because each relationship is different. Some organized for political reasons others for exposure (i.e. cultural) and others as a reaffirmation.

Ms. Hidemi Baughman of the Tsukuba, Japan Committee, spoke of the various relationships as providing an international window at City Hall. A

vehicle to be used to better understand different cultures and their people.

Mayor Wolf suggested to the various Committees assembled to employ the River Festival as a vehicle to make the citizenry aware of the various relationships, their offerings and their needs.

Councillor Myers returned to the topic of a coordinated effort on the City of Cambridge's part and what level of involvement would be recommended by the various Committees.

Recommendations ranged from the creation of a Commission to a staff person to administrative support to the various Committees.

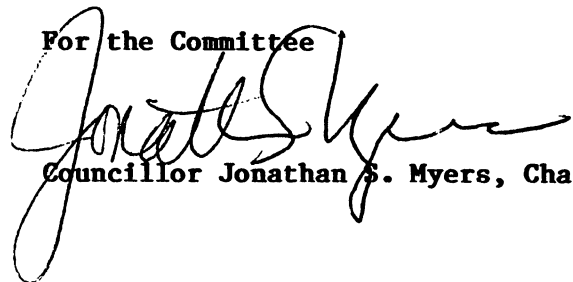
Ms. Mass recommended to the Committee the model presently in place in Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Nancy Ryan, Executive Director of the Women's Commission and a member of the Las Flores Committee stressed the need for a better exchange of information between the various Committees. Ms. Ryan recommended monthly Advisory Committee Meetings between the various Committees as one vehicle.

Councillor Myers requested of the participants to prepare a budget calendar of events, goals and to think about the make-up of an Advisory Committee for the next City Council Subcommittee Meeting.

The hearing was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

For the Committee



Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

S-238

Report from the Sister Cities Committee
for a hearing held on March 2, 1990
to discuss the coordination of the various
sister city relationships and to receive
a list of upcoming events to be sponsored
by the various entities.

In City Council,

March 12, 1990

Report accepted