

City of Cambridge

The Sister City Committee conducted a public hearing on Thursday, May 24, 1990 beginning at 2:45 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 that this date's agenda would continue the discussion on the preparation of a centralized sister city budget as well as to receive an historical review of established sister city relationships and to discuss guidelines for the establishment of future sister city relationships.

Councillor Myers began the discussion by questioning the mechanisms employed by the individual sister city efforts to achieve stated objectives and how they would interrelate with a coordinated effort by the City of Cambridge. Prior to the Committee receiving responses the Chair distributed a packet of information received from the City of Seattle, Washington outlining its Sister City Affiliation Policy, its Municipal Ordinance number 113042 creating the Office of International Affairs and a catalogue of Seattle's Sister Cities. (Copies of said packet available in the Office of the Cambridge City Clerk).

In response to the Chair's opening question, Ms. Rosanne Royer, formerly a member of the Seattle/Tashkent Committee, of 18 Fresh Pond Place stated that the City would not be able to replace the strengths of the individual Committees because of the hands on approach that is often times taken by the membership of the Committee to realize a stated goal or objective.

Ms. Royer then proceeded to outline to the Committee the process that was undertaken by the City of Seattle to determine if a need existed to better coordinate its fourteen sister city affiliations under one umbrella within the municipality. Due to the geographical location of the City, trade serves as a major component of the local economy. This factor coupled with the housing of a large Consular Corp served as a catalyst to involve the business community to join with citizens to prod the City into looking at the need of creating an Office of International Affairs. Ms. Royer stated that this citizen initiative took six years to reach fruition.

Councillor Duehay provided the Committee with an example of a local international function provided by Harvard University to its visitors offering itineraries, maps and local points of interest and suggested that the Committee view this operation to see if the City could possibly play a role.

Councillor Myers suggested that the City could learn from the experiences of Seattle and build on their successes in drafting a statement to move towards a more structured coordination between the various sister committees.

Councillor Duehay stated that such a coordinated effort by the City could serve a threefold purpose: 1) Provide Protocol, 2) Stimulate trade opportunities; and; 3) Bring the various committees together.

Councillor Duehay further stated that there would still exist a need for vibrant individual committees.

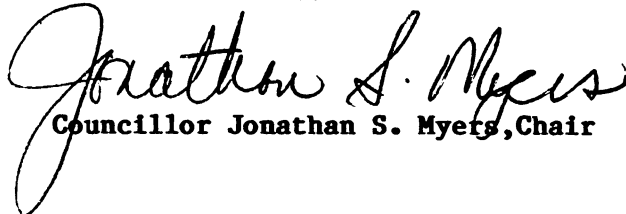
The Chair stated that the Committee would further investigate and try to identify those mutual interests between the City and the Universities that would lead to a better utilization or expansion of the various Sister City Committees.

The Chair requested that the Seattle, Washington information packets be made available to all of the Sister City Committees.

The Chair stated that the Committee would next meet to discuss a strategy to determine a needs assessment in the area of coordination.

The hearing was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

For the Committee



Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report from the Sister City Committee
for hearing held on Thursday, May 24, 1990
to continue discussion on the preparation
of a centralized sister city budget as well
as to receive an historical review of
established sister city relationships and to
discuss guidelines for the establishment of
future sister city relationships.

In City Council,

July 30, 1990

*Report accepted
and placed on
file*