

# Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission

## Minutes February 21, 2024

7:00 p.m. Village Chamber

The February 21, 2024 meeting was held in the Kallsen Center and called to order by vice chair Lucas Hawley at 7:05 p.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Roll Call:**

- Recognize Commission members present: Chairman Patrick Rea attended via phone; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Vice Chair Lucas Hawley, Jim Muller, Mike Roche, and Michele Rons,
- Staff Liaison: N/A
  - Absent: Commissioners: Sarah Krause, David Niemeyer, and George Rhode; Trustee Liaison: William Brady

### **Approval of Minutes:**

- November 15, 2023 minutes were presented for approval. Jim Muller made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Michele Rons seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

### **Sister City Updates:**

#### Büdingen, Germany Update:

- Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen discussed the December 2023 trip to Büdingen. Commissioner Sarah Krause and Trustees Brennan and Sullivan also traveled to Büdingen. Secretary/Commissioner Tyssen presented a recap of the visit. Our group was able to meet with representatives from their twinning/sister city in Bruntál, in the Czech Republic.
- Secretary Tyssen and Trustees Brennan and Sullivan met with Katja Euler, Vice Mayor of Büdingen, Germany and the group from the Czech Republic on Friday, December 8 at the Town Hall in Büdingen. We discussed each of our communities and what we can try to do to bring us and Büdingen's other twinning/sister cities together.
- Büdingen's Kulturnacht festival was outlined and Katja was trying to gauge participation interest from each of the communities. The Commission fielded ideas for how to distribute information about the event. The various art organizations were discussed.
  - Once we get a final brochure we can translate it to English and then distribute it.
  - We need to find out who their point of contact will be in Büdingen for residents and artists who are interested in attending.

- The Vice Mayor proudly announced plans for the development of an underused soccer field near the Town Hall offices. Trustees Brennan and Sullivan brought up the Harmony Square project, of which there are several similarities. At this time, their project is dependent on funding from the German government but they are hopeful it will be given the green light.
- Secretary Tyssen met several times with the chair of their twinning cities group, Sieglinde Huxorn-Engler, to discuss ideas of how the two communities can come together.
  - An exchange for Kulturnacht, when the German's next visit to Tinley Park might be, and other ways we can possibly use technology to bring our communities closer were topics covered

#### Mallow, Ireland Update:

- Commissioner Rohde was not present to give us an update on his communications with the Cook County representative that assists with the County Cork itinerary once they are here.
  - The commission talked about the Tinley Park Irish Parade and mentioned that the dates will not coincide with the visit from County Cork to Chicago.
  - We need to think of ways to encourage their group, or a small portion of, to visit Tinley Park when they are here or to think of ways to strengthen ties between Mallow and Tinley Park.

#### Nowy Sącz, Poland:

- Nothing to report.

#### **Prospective Sister Cities:**

##### Jordan, Aqaba:

- Commissioner Niemeyer has been the liaison between Aqaba and Tinley Park but is not present to give an update.
  - A formal invitation to Aqaba has been received. At least one Village Trustee and two commissioners are interested in going there, but not at this time.
  - Communications will remain open with them and we continue to hope for the best result between our two communities.

##### Municipality of Ghadamis, Libya:

- No one present at the meeting was on the last call. Commissioner Tyssen mentioned that Ramadan will be coming up and we will not likely hear much from them until it is over. The exact dates are unknown at this time, but it begins sometime in the early spring and continues for several weeks.

##### Additional Potential Sister Cities

- Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

- No old business was discussed.

**New and Upcoming Business:**

- Under New Business, Commissioner Mike Roche has submitted his resignation which will become effective after the close of this meeting. He will be moving out of Tinley Park but hopes to pop into our meetings if he is in town.
- Suggestions for someone to fill the open commissioner spot were discussed.

**Public comments/Announcements:**

- The Tinley Park Irish Parade will be the first Sunday in March.

**Adjourned:**

- Lucas Hawley asked for a motion to adjourn, Mike Roche motioned, Jim Muller seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The next Sister Cities Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in the Village Chambers.