



Village of Hanover Park Administration

Municipal Building
2121 West Lake Street, Hanover Park, IL 60133
630-823-5600 tel 630-823-5786 fax

hpil.org

Village President
Rodney S. Craig

Village Clerk
Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda

Trustees
James Kemper
Fanny Y. López Benitez
Herb Porter
Bob Prigge
Rick Roberts
Sharmin Shahjahan

Village Manager
Juliana A. Maller

VILLAGE OF HANOVER PARK SISTER CITIES COMMITTEE Committee of the Whole Meeting

Hanover Park Police Headquarters – EOC
2011 Lake Street - Hanover Park, IL 60133

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Sister Cities Committee Chair Pamela Fowler.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Pamela Fowler, Trustee Herb Porter, Arnulfo Flores,
Frank Grant-Acquah, Maria Pineda

ABSENT: Committee Members: Adelaide Grant-Acquah, Gustavo Pineda

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Rod Craig, Elizabeth Ma (Ontarioville School
Principal), Maria Alba (Ontarioville School 1st Grade
Teacher), Ted Grant-Acquah, Staff Liaison Katherine Perez

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA:

Motion by Frank to accept agenda. Second by Arnulfo. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

3. PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Frank to approve meeting minutes of the September 10, 2019. Second by Arnulfo.
Voice vote: all ayes. No discussion. Motion carried.

5. ACTION ITEMS:

- 5-a. Penpal program status report – Ontarioville School (Maria) and Laurel Hill School (Trustee Porter) – Chair Pamela introduced guests and confirmed the establishment of the penpal program, effective October 8, 2019. Guests Elizabeth Ma and Mrs. Alba confirmed Ontarioville School's participation by the 1st grade students. Chair Pamela provided the timeline of scheduled activities for 2019-2020:

- 1) Initial exchange will be letters of introduction due on 10/18/2019. Arnulfo will pick up the letters from Ontarioville School.
- 2) Artwork depicting December holidays due on 12/10/2019. It was noted that collected artwork may be framed and used for fundraising purposes.
- 3) Second letter exchange will have open topic, possibly related to family, Valentine's Day observation or pet; due on 1/30/2020.
- 4) Final activity will be Skype phone call in April 2020 with exact date to be determined.

Trustee Porter advised that he has discussed the penpal program with Laurel Hill School Principal Lopez. Pending agreement with the teachers, either the 3rd or the 6th grade students will participate. If transport of the letters cannot be completed in a timely manner, the letters will be mailed.

- 5-b. Status of distribution of funds for scholarships at Jesus Gonzalez Ortega School – Katherine advised that the Finance Department confirmed that the funds were sent October 8 and that it may take up to ten days for the funds to reach the bank in Valparaiso. Katherine requested that written confirmation be obtained from the school as soon as the funds are received. Frank and Arnulfo were asked to reach out to the schools to let them know photos of the scholarship recipients would be appreciated since it would document the accomplishment of the one of the Committee's budget goals.
- 5-c. Travel planning for 2021 Cape Coast visit and fundraising plans – Trustee Porter noted that planning will be ongoing and there will be heavy reliance on the Committee's Ghanaian members to provide recommendations and guidance. Following Trustee Porter's trip to Ghana in December 2019, he will likely have some observations and recommendations. Planning discussion for the 2021 Cape Coast visit was tabled until the November meeting.

Trustee Porter provided details regarding his personal travel to Cape Coast in late December 2019 -early January 2020. His wife and daughter will accompany him. They will be in Accra from December 28 through January 4 at which time they will then transfer to Cape Coast and be there through January 8. Formal letters of introductions will need to be prepared to announce Trustee Porter's itinerary and to request appointments with local officials. Frank will assist and draft the appropriate letters which will need to be finalized/signed by no later than November 28 at which time Frank will email the letters to Ato Mould to print out and distribute. Visits will also be made at the school, regional police headquarters and children's hospital. Consideration will be given to possible gifts that can presented during Trustee Porter's visits. Frank suggested that a Village of Hanover Park flag be taken and presented to the school. Any gifts that will be distributed will need to be small and easy to transport.

- 5-d. Black History Month event planning (2/29/2020) – The program for the 2020 Black Month event will center around the theme of the pre-slavery experience in Africa, showcasing the distinct Ghanaian influence. The Committee will establish a special team/working group to plan the event. Trustee Porter will reach out to Elgin Community College to invite Dr. Sam to be the guest speaker and to recruit students from the Black Student Organization to assist with research and make a presentation at the event. Trustee Porter will report on his results at the November meeting.

The Committee reviewed a draft BHM “save the date” announcement. Katherine advised that space permitting, the “save the date” announcement may appear in the November-December 2019 issue of the Hi-Lighter. Otherwise, the official invitation announcement will be submitted for the January-February 2020 edition of the Hi-Lighter.

- 5-e. Valparaiso 10th Anniversary in 2020 (coincides with Federacion’s 25th Anniversary) – preliminary discussion – Given the Sister Cities Committee’s workforce, Trustee Porter recommends hosting an event at the ball field and working with the Special Events Committee to schedule the Valparaiso 10th Anniversary celebration to coincide with one of the Village’s signature events, such as a small musical festival with bands and food vendors. Arnulfo suggested hosting the event on a Saturday, but there would be considerable staffing demands and the required resources may not be available for a Saturday event. Discussion was tabled pending more information from the Special Events Committee.
- 5-f. Hoffman Estates’ Annual Soiree Culinaire (French dinner), 10/24/19 – Registration and payment is due by 10/17. Pamela and Frank said that they plan to attend, and Arnulfo indicated that he will also consider attending. Pamela will contact Deb Schoop to confirm.
- 5-g. Hosting ISCA Conference in 2020 or 2021 – Frank attended the Illinois State Association Board meeting on 9/25 during which there was discussion about possible hosts and locations for the 2020 and 2021 State Conferences. At this time, Hanover Park isn’t in a position to be able consider hosting due to the lack of resources and a suitable venue. Highland Park, Naperville and Millsap have shown interest in hosting the 2020 and 2021 State Conferences.
- 5-h. International Peace Cup 2020 proposal (Frank) – Frank shared a flyer and provided information about a Sister Cities soccer tournament scheduled for September 18 – 20, 2020, in Rockford. Discussion followed. Trustee Porter noted that although Hanover Park doesn’t have a high school, it may be possible to recruit a team of soccer players that could participate and represent the Village and Sister Cities. Arnulfo feels there would be interest, and Trustee Porter recommended that potential soccer players be identified now before the weather turns cold. There would need to be a coach or two, and money would be needed for uniforms or T-Shirts, transportation and registration. Arnulfo and Trustee Porter will report back at the November meeting.
- 5-i. Decorating tree and participation at Village Tree Lighting Ceremony – Maria and Chair Pamela will decorate the tree with the red, green and gold ornaments that were purchased last year. Katherine will report back as soon as she receives a response to her inquiry about the tree delivery schedule. Typically, the trees are installed and ready to decorate around the third week of November.

6. TOWNHALL SESSION:

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

7-a. Recap of recent activities

- Chair Pamela, Trustee Porter, Maria and Arnulfo participated in the Mexican Independence Parade (9/14) and had a fun time.
- Frank attended the Illinois Municipal League Conference luncheon and Illinois State Board meeting (9/21) held at the Chicago Downtown Hilton.

7-b. Budget activity update – Nothing new to report per Trustee Porter and Katherine. Budget workshops will be held prior to Board approving a final budget in December.

8. NEW BUSINESS (NON-ACTION ITEMS):

8-a.. Upcoming events

- Hoffman Estates Soiree Culinaire (10/24)

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Frank to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Second by Arnulfo. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by:

Katherine Perez, Interim Staff Liaison

Pamela Fowler
Chair, Hanover Park Sister Cities Committee