



City of Kennesaw
2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue
Kennesaw, GA 30144

James Auld
Neil Brunetz
Dana Johnson
Leslie Steinle
Sheb True

KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION (KSCC)

January 26, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Council Chambers

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Andrew Gasparini called the meeting of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission to order at 6:01 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 2529 J.O. Stephenson Ave, Kennesaw, GA.

Commission Members Present: Sheb True, Dana Johnson, Leslie Steinle, Neil Brunetz, James Auld

Commission Members Absent: None

Commission Liaisons Present: Trey Sinclair, Andrew Gasparini, Luke Howe

Guests in Attendance: Travice Obas, Albert Trevino

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

III. Financial Report

IV. New Business

1. Introductions

- The Commissioners introduced themselves to one another.
- Andrew Gasparini presented basic information and expectations for Commissioners to know, including information on participation, attendance, and the process for receiving Mayor and Council approval.

2. Election of Officers

- Dana Johnson motioned to nominate Leslie Steinle as Chair, seconded by Neil Brunetz. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.
- Leslie Steinle motioned to nominate Dana Johnson as Vice Chair, seconded by Neil Brunetz. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.
- Andrew Gasparini offered to serve as the Commission's Secretary.

**The next scheduled meeting of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission will be
Wednesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.**

3. Review and Ratify Bylaws

- Trey Sinclair said the Commission could always approach the Council about amending the bylaws if any issues arise in the future.
- Leslie Steinle motioned to approve the bylaws, seconded by Dana Johnson. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

4. List of Priority Actions

- Andrew Gasparini introduced a list of priority actions he recommended the Commission complete prior to finding a sister city, including creating criterion for the recommendation and evaluation of sister city relationships as well as a standard protocol guide for international engagement. He said the list of priority actions could reasonably be completed in the next six months.
- Dana Johnson suggested adding to the list of priority actions a description of how the Commission and the City of Kennesaw will pursue international partnerships prior to establishing a sister city relationship. For the recommendation criteria, he recommended looking at foreign direct investment and the presence of international businesses. He said he would provide Luke Howe and Andrew Gasparini a list of international businesses in the Kennesaw area.
- Leslie Steinle questioned what an average sister city relationship looks like and what the relationships entail for a city. Luke Howe and Andrew Gasparini shared most cities have no more than four or five sister city relationships, the relationships have no expiration date, and should begin with one sister city in order to develop that relationship before seeking more. The Commission agreed it should focus on developing a relationship with one sister city for several years before searching for more when the time comes.
- Luke Howe asked what the budget for the year was. Andrew Gasparini answered the Commission has \$800 in the City Manager's budget that was allocated for organizational memberships. Sheb True said that his job has memberships with many of the Atlanta non-profit international organizations. The Commission could utilize these memberships, freeing up some money for other projects or organizational memberships like Sister Cities International. Luke Howe stated that the Commission will need to consider finding funding for future travel to Kennesaw's sister city, which is important to ensure the success of the relationship.
- Trey Sinclair shared that his role as Council Liaison is to gauge his fellow Councilmembers' approval of Commission ideas and that he would approach them when the Commission had a draft list of recommendation or evaluation criteria for feedback.
- Leslie Steinle said the Commission may be better served to review materials related to sister cities and listen to the experiences of other sister cities organizations before determining actions for the next several

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months. Andrew Gasparini said he would schedule meetings with other sister cities organizations in the months to come and would share other commissions' recommendation criterion. The Commissioners agreed to focus on the recommendation criteria prior to moving forward with the evaluation criteria and to review other organizations recommendation criteria as well as coming up with five objectives to include in Kennesaw's recommendation criteria prior to the next meeting

V. Discussion

1. Ad-Hoc Committees

2. Emails

- Andrew Gasparini asked if the Commissioners would like to use their personal emails or have a City email for Commission business. The Commissioners agreed to all receive a City email and let Andrew Gasparini know if they will be using the ones provided to them or continue to use their personal emails.
- Andrew Gasparini will follow up with the City's IT Department to create the emails for Commissioners as well as on how to install the emails on the Commissioners' devices.

VI. Public Comments

VII. Staff Comments

VIII. Adjourn

Leslie Steinle motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Neil Brunetz. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.