



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

Leslie Steinle - Chair
Dana Johnson – Vice Chair
James Auld
Neil Brunetz
Travice Obas
Sheb True

KENNESAW SISTER CITIES COMMISSION (KSCC)

March 23, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.	Meeting Minutes	Council Chambers
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I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Leslie Steinle called the meeting of the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission to order at 6:02 P.M. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 2529 J.O. Stephenson Ave, Kennesaw, GA.

Commission Members Present: James Auld, Neil Brunetz, Travice Obas, Leslie Steinle, Sheb True

Commission Members Absent: Dana Johnson

Commission Liaisons Present: Andrew Gasparini, Luke Howe

Guests in Attendance: Elisabeth Jense

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. February 23rd Minutes

- Travice Obas motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Neil Brunetz. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

III. Financial Report

IV. New Business

V. Old Business

1. Selection Criteria

- Leslie Steinle introduced the draft list of selection criteria and asked the commissioners absent from last month's meeting if they would like to share their thoughts or add anything.
- Sheb True seconded the idea of ensuring any sister city has a certain communal appeal and positive PR potential in order to get community involvement.
- James Auld asked if each pillar of the Commission's objectives (cultural, economic and educational exchange) is as important as the others. Luke Howe stated any economic outcomes will more than likely occur a while after a sister city relationship is developed and would be something to

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Wednesday, April 27, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.**

work toward rather than to expect from the onset. Luke Howe also talked about finding a sister city that has a similar cultural/historic background as Kennesaw.

- Leslie Steinle asked if the selection criteria should include performance metrics so that the Commission can share expectations of what a partnership will look like in the first year, five years, etc. with potential sister cities. Andrew Gasparini reminded the commissioners that they will work on an evaluation guide after completing the selection criteria document. He provided several examples of evaluation criteria, and the commissioners agreed that creating a general evaluation guide document that will be modified to each sister city partnership was the best course of action so that they could base the criteria on the partnership's strengths rather than weaknesses.
- The commissioners categorized the listed selection criteria into four categories: basic/demographic, cultural, economic and educational. Travice Obas read several examples from other cities' basic criteria, and the commissioners agreed about the importance of reliable communication and access to transportation for potential sister cities.
- Luke Howe asked if the commissioners had any specific country or city in mind. Travice Obas and Sheb True shared where their college and university have traveled in the past or have existing relationships. Leslie Steinle said she would like to see if the City could create a campaign around finding its first sister city based on a resident or business's tie abroad in order to get community buy-in.
- Andrew Gasparini asked if the commissioners wanted to differentiate the criteria that was preferred or required. The commissioners agreed they did not want to limit the criteria in that manner quite yet. James Auld proposed calling the document a selection guideline so it suggests preferences rather than implies strict standards that need to be met in order to form a relationship.
- Andrew Gasparini said he will provide an updated list of the selection guidelines as well as example evaluation criteria to the commissioners before the next meeting.

VI. Public Comments

1. Elisabeth Jense shared her background and would try to facilitate a connection between the Commission and her cousin in a Danish town.

VII. Staff Comments

VIII. Adjourn

Travice Obas motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by James Auld. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

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