



**TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS  
MINUTES OF THE  
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

**AGENDA ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER**

A public meeting of the Sister Cities Advisory Commission was convened and called to order by Chair Carol Carroll at 4:07 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, 2019 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 16705 East Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

**AGENDA ITEM #2 – ROLL CALL**

Present at roll call were Chair Carol Carroll, Commissioners Vicky Derksen, Enrique Melendez, Lisa Ristuccia, Nicholas Stumpf and Bev Tall. Staff members present were Town Manager Grady Miller and Executive Assistant Angela Padgett-Espiritu.

**AGENDA ITEM #3 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No one spoke at the Call to the Public.

**AGENDA ITEM #4 – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER NICHOLAS STUMPF**

Chair Carroll introduced Commissioner Nicholas Stumpf who then gave brief bio of himself.

**AGENDA ITEM #5 – CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE MAY 15, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Tall MOVED to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes; Commissioner Melendez SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**AGENDA ITEM #6 – CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTING THE COMMISSION VICE-CHAIR**

Commissioner Melendez MOVED to appoint Nicholas Stumpf as the Commission Vice-Chair, Commissioner Tall SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**AGENDA ITEM #7 – DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE ADDITION OF NEW SISTER CITY IN ITALY &/OR CANADA**

Chair Carroll reported to the commission:

- Spoke with Marcos and Fernando, who are two people that we are working with to acquire a new city sister in Italy. He will be meeting with the people of Verona and discussing with the Verona regional council about the possibility of a having a sister city in either Lake Garda or in an area northwest of Verona. Verona already has sister cities in their area. There are two possibilities for a sister city in Lake Garda and one possible sister city that is a wine community in an area that is forty-five minutes northwest of Verona.
- Mr. Williamson, Honorable Consul of Canada is assisting us with looking for opportunities for a sister city in Canada. We started with Calgary and found that there were not many matches in the farmland areas. So, we are starting to move over to the British Columbia Victoria area. This area has Beautiful small communities like ours. The airfare is about the same. Looking for an opportunity and relationship for adult trips, art trips and nature trips.

Commissioner Melendez commented that the Consul of Canada gave great compliments to Chair Carrol, Mayor Dickey and the Town Council for their interest and support level to Fountain Hills for developing a sister city with Canada.

**AGENDA ITEM #8 – DISCUSSION regarding number of resignations this year on the FHSC Board. Sharon Morgan, Estelle Mackey, & Scott Schlossberg. Opinion on size of FHSC Board. Reduction requested. New Board Member Roxanne with AZ Trails Travel Agency to represent Ataco, El Salvador and as our travel consultant to the Board.**

Chair Carroll mentioned the agenda item to the commission.

**AGENDA ITEM #9 – DISCUSSION regarding Adult travel trip to Ataco, El Salvador in spring of 2020. Plus, a qualifying trip to Italy to meet Mayors and visit the next possible Sister City including a signing ceremony in spring or summer of 2020.**

Chair Carroll updated the commissioner that we had an adult trip planned to Ataco, El Salvador for December 2019 but did not get the response needed and moved to Spring 2020.

After we do evaluations of the new sister cities, we will have an opportunity to meet the Mayor of the prospective town(s) and have an opportunity to evaluate them for being in our program and accepting their relationship. We will be working on this in spring and summer of 2020.

**AGENDA ITEM #10 – UPDATE FROM FH SISTER CITIES CORPORATION**

Chair Carroll updated the commission:

- 2019 Oktoberfest Booth and need for Volunteers to sell Strudel.
  - We need volunteers for the booth for September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- Sister Cities International Outreach to Russian Government in effort to develop Sister City relationships with Russian cities. Delegation has been reduced for October 2019 trip. Will have a final trip to sign documents in 2020.
  - Organizing a delegate of 50-60 people. Russia has asked Sister Cities Corporation to help with senior services and about how to provide these services.
- Sept 18 Arrival of German Students Exchanges. Welcome Pizza lunch at Euro on Sept 19 at 11:30 am the FHSCAC and FHSC Board of Directors, The Mayor are all invited to join us. Travel and learn with Departure on Oct 5th. Final Farewell Brunch will be on Oct 5th in the morning on the Desert Belle all are welcome.
  - We have 13 German exchange students with two chaperones and will have a welcome luncheon at Euro Pizza. This is always very interesting to attend the pizza lunch with the students. We invite you to attend the Farewell Brunch on October 5, 2019.
- Spring 2020, Date to be determined Annual Fundraiser -FHSC Annual International Dinner at the FH Community Center. Flags Presentation, music of our Sister Cities, Foods from our Sister Cities, Program to include Honorable Consulates living in Fountain Hills. 50th year of Fountain Anniversary in theme.
  - We will talk about international opportunities, along with food and music from our Sister Cities. We are going to make it a 30<sup>th</sup> /50<sup>th</sup> year of Fountain Hills in the fundraiser.
- NEW program being tested for a Pen Pal Program for 7th graders. Assist with donating some Paint. For the wall in the park. Lisa Risteau working with The Flying Flower Butterfly Garden Team. More later
  - Commissioner Ristuccia reported that the Pen Pal Program is still in the planning stages and that a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at the Middle School will be collaborating with a school in Poland with this program. It was recommended that this program use handwritten letters instead of online communication. We will try to continue with other grades, use this one as the pilot and to take to other sister cities after this one is done.
  - Commissioner Carroll commented that this innovated program is a way of getting more students involved internationally and with Sister Cities.

- Commissioner Dickerson commented that her neighbor kid graduated from High School and went to Poland and was initially hesitant about going and now saves his money to return.

**AGENDA ITEM #11 – ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Tall MOVED to adjourn at 4:46 p.m.; Commissioner Dickerson SECONDED the motion, which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

**SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION**

BY: Carol J. Carroll  
Carol Carroll, Chair

Prepared by: Angela Padgett-Espino  
Angela Padgett-Espino, Executive Assistant

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Session held by the Sister Cities Advisory Commission of Fountain Hills on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2019. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019

Angela Padgett-Espino  
Angela Padgett-Espino, Executive Assistant