

Asheville Sister Cities, Inc. (ASCI)
Board of Directors Meeting – February 11, 2010

Board Members present were Andrew Craig, Bonnie Gregory, Jerry Gregory, Jason Hill, Barbara Hodgson, Alice Keller, Rick Lutovsky, Marylyn Seyler, Georgia Shannon, Monique Taylor, and Valeria Watson-Doost.

President Andrew Craig opened the meeting held in the Board Room in the Chamber of Commerce at 5:30 pm.

Minutes of the January Board meeting were presented. After a motion by Jerry and a second, the minutes were approved as written. The minutes of the January Annual Membership Meeting were presented. After a motion by Barbara and a second, the minutes were approved as written.

Financial. The Treasurer reported a current balance of \$17,764.00 after the deposit of \$1355.00 in membership dues. This report was accepted.

Committee Reports.

Membership: Marylyn reported that Neil and Cindy Stephens and Sandra and Thomas Whiteside are new members. Thirty-four members have renewed their membership. Meghan Rogers, Barbara Lewis and Greg and Amy Gaston have chosen not to renew membership. We now have 97 memberships (151 members). Fifty-nine members have paid for 2010 and one for 2011. There are still 40 members from last year who have not yet paid their dues for 2010. Another reminder will go out early in March. We now have 40 Honorary Members. If you have a recent mailing address for Juli McLeod, please notify Marylyn. We do not know the name of the Mayor of Vladikavkaz.

Newsletter: Editor Bonnie Gregory plans to publish the next edition in March. The deadline for submission of news items and pictures for the publication is March 1.

Park: Jason reported that the Park Committee is reaching out to neighbors of the park property to obtain written "Letters of Acknowledgement" in support of the project. Conversation is ongoing with the owners of the two pieces of land which connect Beaucatcher and Sister Cities Overlook Park sites to arrange land swaps and/or purchase by a land conservation group. The Chamber of Commerce is reviewing the SC Park Business Plan. The City of Asheville has not yet provided any feedback on the formal agreement which has been submitted. Fundraising efforts continue.

Publicity: Andrew introduced Rebecca Bagwell to the Board. After a motion by Barbara to invite her to join the ASCI Board of Directors as PR/Communications Chair, which was seconded and passed unanimously, she accepted.

Search: No report.

Social: Barbara reported on the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24. About 70 members and friends attended. Total expenses for the afternoon were \$34.27. There followed some discussion of a location for the ASCI Fourth of July party. Barbara will pursue our using the top floor ballroom of the Battery Park Apartment building, including its outside terraces. There is debris piling up in the alley behind the office at 33 Page Avenue. Andrew indicated that he will

take care of this problem. He will also ask the City to reserve several parking places behind the office for ASCI volunteers.

Special Projects/Fundraising: No report.

Website: Scott Smith, our volunteer webmaster, introduced the revised ASCI website to us. He demonstrated how changes can now be made to the site more easily by individuals. Scott will distribute user names and passwords in the near future. Each City Chair will have access to the appropriate city page. Suggestions from Board members included adding a page for the newsletter, adding blog capabilities, and adding a link to our Facebook page. Questions? Contact Scott by email at scott1250@me.com or by phone at 828-253-0379.

Youth: No report.

Sister City Committee Reports.

Karpenisi: No report.

Osogbo: Valeria is developing an itinerary for the King's visit to Asheville on May 1-10. We expect a delegation of 15 people. She will ask the Mayor to plan a public welcome for the delegation and also to host a dinner. We need a Nigerian flag of the size suitable for flying outside City Hall during the visit. Barbara will host a party for the delegation on May 5. The Osogbo Committee is also developing plans for a workshop by the delegation member who is a batik artist. Dr. Atanda hopes to remain in Asheville for three months following the delegation visit for advanced training with MAHEC Ob/Gyn doctors.

Wilmington is taking the lead on a grant application for poverty alleviation which is due on May 1.

San Cristobal: Sarah submitted a written report. "We will be working on getting a delegation from San Cristobal up here this June. That is going to be our main focus for the next few months. We also will support, however they need it, the folks at WCU in their efforts to make academic exchanges and connections with the Universidad Intercultural de Chiapas down there." The San Cristobal Committee will meet (rescheduled) on Wednesday, Feb 24, at 33 Page Avenue.

Saumur: Barbara will meet next Monday with the Principal of Asheville High School to discuss student exchanges between Asheville and Saumur. The Saumur Committee will meet on Monday, Feb 22, at the home of Inge and Daniel Roberts.

Valladolid: Jerry reported that Tom Jones is trying to invigorate the children's music project while he is in Valladolid. Jerry and Bonnie will visit Valladolid this month. Perhaps Andrew and Jackie will, also. The Valladolid Committee will meet on Thursday, Feb 18, at 5:30 pm in the office at 33 Page Avenue.

Vladikavkaz: No report.

Other Business.

Barbara made a motion to approve the revised Bylaws, with the exception of the two sections describing terms of office (Article IV, Section 1; Article VI, Section 1). This motion was seconded and passed.

Jerry made a motion to approve the revised Policies and Procedures, leaving a space for the future addition of a Vision Statement (Part II). This motion received a second and passed. Rick will plan a facilitated session to create a Vision Statement for ASCI.

Jerry suggested that we have a special event to welcome the new President of A-B Tech, Dr. Hank Dunn. This event could emphasize the educational links that ASCI has helped establish with institutions in our Sister Cities. Rick informed us that the Chamber of Commerce would be planning a reception for Dr. Dunn which could provide an appropriate occasion to inform Dr. Dunn and officials from other local colleges who might be in attendance about ASCI and the educational exchange programs we have encouraged.

The meeting adjourned.

/signed/

Submitted by Alice Keller, Secretary

Action Item Review.

Completed:

- Revision and adoption of Bylaws and Policies and Procedures.

In Progress:- Develop ASCI Vision statement. (Rick)

- Contact possible different webmaster. (Rick)

- Establish active liaisons with Asheville City Council and Buncombe County Commission.

(Andrew)- Obtain Nonprofit Compliance rules for inclusion in Handbook. (Barbara)- Obtain SCI Membership Directory for Board members. (Alice)

- Develop regular volunteer staffing recommendation for office. (Gwen)

- Contact Gary Jackson to request link to ASCI website on Asheville City website. (Rick)

- Write a Resolution of Support for the 2010 US Census. (Charlie)- Complete electronic survey about Youth involvement in ASCI. (all Board Members)- Transfer funds for school children's art program in Beslan. (Constance, Monique)- Explore cost of new brochure with Doug Keen. (Andrew)

- Update brochure to include a vision statement, the word "... peace..." added to mission statement, reasons to join ASCI, information about Osogbo, and a way for new members to indicate their interest in specific cities. (Ad Hoc Committee)- Reposition pins on ASCI map in City Hall. (Barbara)

- Update website. (Each City Committee Chair)- Distribute or sell ASCI logo tee shirts. (Gwen)- Meet with Editor of Asheville "Citizen-Times" to facilitate future publicity efforts. (Andrew and others as designated)

- Raise funds for the Sister Cities Overlook Park. (all)

Upcoming Events.

March 11, 5:30 pm ASCI Board Meeting, 33 Page Avenue

May 1-10 Visit by delegation from Osogbo (Contact Valeria.)

May 10-21, 2010 Mars Hill Spanish language students visit Chiapas (Contact Sarah.)

July 4 ASCI Party (Contact Barbara.)

July 27 – Aug 1 SCI Youth Conference in Albuquerque, NM

July 29 – 31 SCI Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM