

Agenda for February 6, 2013

Hayward-Ghazni Friendship City Partnership/ Sister City Committee
Room 4A Hayward City Hall

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Treasurer's Report

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report from nomination committee and action to fill these positions:
 - a. Chair:
 - b. Vice chair:
 - c. Secretary:
 - d. Correspondence Secretary:
 - e. Treasurer:
 - f. Follow-up action re bank account and P.O. Box

2. Plans for a trip to Ghazni and Afghanistan
 - a. Bruce's planned trip from March to October
 - b. Other committee members in September/October?
 - c. Security situation (current and projected)
 - d. Correspondence with Ghazni

3. Report from Fundraising subcommittee

4. Report on progress on San Jose/Herat Sister City relationship.
 - a. Taiba Hosseini (new board member of NorCal Sister Cities)
 - b. Correspondence with Herat contacts (State Dept. and Herat citizens)

NEW BUSINESS

- Possible Sister City Festival in Hayward to highlight the special honor Ghazni is receiving as a center of Islamic Civilization.

MEMBER COMMENTS

FEEDBACK ON MEETING

Next meeting on Wednesday March 6, 2013, 7 pm in room 4A of City Hall

Minutes for January 9, 2013

Hayward-Ghazni Friendship City Partnership/ Sister City Committee Room 4A Hayward City Hall

Attending: Arif Yaqubi, Stephanie Spencer, Rahima Haya, Bruce Green, Jenni Perez (3rd year journalism student at Cal State East Bay), Taiyaba Hosseini, Carol Ruth Silver, Humaira Ghilzai, Ghazal Noor, Taher Sarwary, Layma Murtaza (representing Bill Quirk, her phone 510-588-8814, interfaith, ethnic diversity, community events, 22032 Foothill layma.murtaza@asm.ca.gov), Hamed Nekrawish

Called to order at 7:20

Approval of Agenda

With addition of plans for elections including a nominating committee, for officers before next meeting (on 2/6/13). Approval moved by Carol Ruth Silver, and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Approved: unanimous

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer in training continues to learn. Report deferred until Hamid Nekrawish arrives. Now have online access to bank account. Current balance: \$9,696.93

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fundraising options for 2013 (brainstorming session)

- a. Mail/email direct appeal
- b. Special projects (like trip to Afghanistan for Ghazni 2013)
- c. Partnerships (like with Roots of Peace, other Sister City group)
- d. Fundraising event(s)

What are we fundraising for?

Core program since founding of committee—widows literacy (adult women) program. The Ghazni-Hayward Friendship City Partnership Committee is completely independent of the City of Hayward and any other government or funder. Our fundraising is by individuals from individuals for specific projects that the committee identifies in order to contribute through individuals like us who are in Ghazni.

Have also discussed with Ghazni governor to support Ghazni as Center of Islamic Culture for Asia in 2013. This could be through a trip to Ghazni for the 2013 celebration (where individuals pay their own travel, but committee funds could be used for ancillary expenses of the delegation, such as official delegation gifts). In the case of the 2013 trip, could a gift be a more practical contribution to an ongoing program or event.

Could there be additional programs/activities in Ghazni that the committee could consider supporting? Our brainstorming session produced possible ideas such as:

- (Rahima) Women’s health, and of their children—preventative health
- (Arif) An important need in Ghazni—supporting children, and we can be most effective in small needs that larger donors (countries, large organizations) would support. We want to improve the future of Ghazni through children.
 - Children who are working and can’t go to school
 - Maybe 10-20 children
 - Ask education staff to identify top students who are poor and can’t continue in school
- Legal help for women who need representation
- (Carol Ruth Silver) to establish a computer lab at the high school, which would include the computers and the support to maintain it.
- (Taiyaba Hosseini) increase micro business among women who are currently part of the literacy class and are marketing their handicrafts, such as giving a sewing machine for each woman so she could become financially secure. This could be in the form of loans that would be the basis of a revolving fund that would continue to be available.
- (Taher Sarwary) micro-enterprise loans—his nephew has set this up in other places, and he could help us learn about this.

Some guidelines for making this decision:

Executable, a stretch from what we’ve done in the past, sustainable, possibly connected to a program we already have (e.g., health education could connect to education; cell phone literacy could connect specifically to our women’s literacy project). It will be very important to get information about the needs that exist, and some details about a process that could be used to implement a project or start a program, etc. This would also need to be connected to a person in Ghazni who would be able to implement and supervise a project.

Motion by Bruce to set up a subcommittee to identify a project for 2013 fundraising focus in Ghazni. The committee will include Arif, Rahima, Taher Sarwary’s nephew (Suliaman Rahim, 858-337-5043), Bruce, Hamed, Layma.

Motion approved unanimously.

Process of fundraising ideas:

We will discuss this at a future meeting when we have a project identified.

2. **How should we proceed with plans for a trip to Ghazni or Afghanistan in September/October 2013 to participate in the celebrations of Ghazni as the 2013 Asian Center of Islamic Culture?**
 - a. Security situation (current and projected)
 - b. Review of draft letter to Governor Musa Khan

Bruce has drafted a letter to the Governor which he read to the committee for comment. This will not need to be translated because it is from Bruce, and the governor speaks English well.

Humaira will review the letter and provide her comments, and then the letter will be emailed to others on the committee.

The 2013 opening ceremonies will be around Nawrooz (March 21). The main celebrations will probably be in September/October, and Humaira is in touch with the State Department representative in Ghazni who will have information about how preparations are unfolding and when the events will happen. She will report to the committee as she gets further information.

3. Report on progress on formation of San Jose/Herat Sister City relationship.

- a. Taiyaba Hosseini (new board member of NorCal Sister Cities)
- b. Jan 12 meeting of NorCal SCI committee.
- c. Correspondence with Herat contacts (State Dept. and Herat citizens)
- d. Comments on documentary from Afghan singer Shafiq Mureed

Following-up on the decision at Nov. 7, 2012 meeting to designate a \$500 fund as an incubator for the Heart/San Jose Sister City initiative once a formation committee is set up. A web site designed by the Herati group has been set up to promote the sister city relationship. The San Jose group needs to set up a website or Facebook page to begin to get out information about the possibility of this relationship. A formation committee has not been set up, and the process won't proceed until this is set up.

Next steps could be to arrange a meeting and invite Carol Ruth Silver to describe the process and steps that were done in establishing Ghazni-Hayward. Bruce and Taiyaba will work on setting up this meeting in San Jose.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cell phone literacy program—Carol Ruth Silver: deferred to the 2013 project subcommittee meeting to have a demonstration of the phone program, which is already in Dari and Pashto, developed by a company in Kabul.
2. Schedule of HGSCC meetings for 2013: February 6, March 6, April 3, May 8, June 5, July 3, September 4, October 2, November 6, December 4
3. Nominating Committee for GHFCP officers (positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer): Bruce, Humaira, Layma. Unanimously approved.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Arif offered to forward any stories to him that members would like to have publicized in the Ghazni local media. He will send them to his contacts in Ghazni.

FEEDBACK ON MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 8:57:

Next meeting on Wednesday February 6, 2013, 7 pm in room 4A of City Hall