

Agenda for March 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. 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**
 - e. Appropriate gift from committee?**
- 3. Report from Fundraising subcommittee**
- 4. Report on progress on San Jose/Herat Sister City relationship.**

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 February 6, 2013

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

Attending: Bruce Green, Layma Murtaza, Arif Yaqubi, Abdul-Manan Hamdard, Carol Ruth Silver (by phone), Rahima Haya, Stephanie Spencer

Called to order: 7:17

Approval of Agenda

Moved: Stephanie Spencer Approved: by all

Approval of Minutes

Moved: Stephanie Spencer Approved: by all

Treasurer's Report

Same balance as January report, from the bank statement \$9,696.93.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report from nomination committee and action to fill these positions:

- a. **Chair:** Bruce Green (on assignment for six+ months, representing the committee in Afghanistan)
- b. **Vice chair:** Carol Ruth Silver (will be acting Chair while Bruce is gone)
- c. **Secretary:** Layma Murtaza (will take minutes at meetings)
- d. **Correspondence Secretary:** Layma Murtaza
- e. **Treasurer:** Hamed Nekrawesh, and Ghizal Noor as trainee (although she can't attend meetings for this semester because of a school conflict)
- f. **Follow-up action re bank account and P.O. Box:** Currently, Bruce is the only signator on the account. Bill Quirk originally had been co-signator, and Hamed Nekrawesh also had been co-signator. Hamed as Treasurer will now need to be added as signator, and Carol Ruth Silver will also look into whether she could be added as a signator by visiting a branch in San Francisco. Officers are eligible to be signators. The primary function of signators is to make the funds transfers to Afghanistan, and to make deposits (although others can also make deposits). The only way to make transfers is to take cash from the account, and then carry it the Western Union office to arrange to send to Afghanistan. This transaction should be done by more than one person together for security reasons.

Motion by Carol Ruth: That Carol Ruth, Layma Murtaza, and Hamed Nekrawish be authorized to be signators on the bank account. **Second by Rahima.** Approved by all. Adding signators would be accomplished by going together to Bank of America with Bruce.

Layma will have a P.O. Box key. Hamed has the other key. Need to check the box once a month. Usually the Treasurer will do this in order to do the report.

The Acting Chair will develop the agenda, and send to Secretary, who will distribute to the mailing list in a timely manner before each meeting. Note: the Chair had been fulfilling the

Correspondence Secretary functions. The Treasurer will continue to check the mailbox and train the treasurer trainee. The Chair will chair the meetings in February and March (6th), and will look into attending by conference call while in Afghanistan.

Layma moved and Carol Ruth seconded accepting the slate as presented. Passed unanimously.

2. Plans for a trip to Ghazni and Afghanistan

- a. Bruce's planned trip from March to October:** Bruce will provide email updates. Plan to leave around March 15, returning in Mid-October (date TBD). Travel from Kabul to Ghazni is being worked out. After a few days in Ghazni, return to Kabul, and attend language school in Kabul and possibly in Tajikistan. Plan to make Sister City trips to Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Bamiyan, and to any other cities where an opportunity becomes available.

Carol Ruth expressed that on behalf of Ghazni Hayward, and potential new sister cities, the Ghazni Hayward Sister City Committee would like to support Bruce's trip in any way possible.

Motion by Carol Ruth; Second by Layma: Approved by all.

Resolved: The Ghazni Hayward Friendship City Partnership (Sister City) Committee has requested Bruce Green, Chairman, to travel to Afghanistan and represent the Committee in Ghazni and Kabul during the celebrations of Ghazni as the 2013 honoree, and to explore other potential sister city relationships, during the period of March 1, 2013 through October 31, 2013. *This resolution will be put into a letter, in Dari and English, that Bruce can take with him. The final version of this letter will be crafted by Stephanie and Bruce. Bruce will format the letter on a letterhead he creates, for Carol Ruth's signature on behalf of the committee. This letter could also be notarized.*

Motion by Carol Ruth: Resolution to establish a special fund through the Sister City account specifically to sponsor Bruce and help offset his expenses for this trip. These funds will be tax deductible contributions to the Sister City Committee when designated for Bruce's travel representing the committee. Carol Ruth pledged a gift of \$100.00 to start this process.

Seconded by Stephanie. Approved by all.

Arif and Bruce will investigate whether there is an online process for making donations to this type of cause.

- b. Other committee members in September/October?** Bruce will stay in Afghanistan to join any Committee members who are able to travel to Ghazni for the 2013 events. Bruce will communicate with the committee about whatever he learns about specific events to facilitate committee members' planning. A list of people interested in the travel was developed at the last fundraiser. Carol Ruth and Bruce will both look for the list and give it to Rahima. Rahima will contact people on the list to find out if they are still interested.
- c. Security situation (current and projected):** Bruce will continue to give feedback to the committee about what he learns about this while he's in Afghanistan.
- d. Correspondence with Ghazni:** Bruce will write a letter to the Ghazni Governor to include with the resolution drafted at this meeting.

- e. **(Added by Carol Ruth): Cell phone literacy program for widows in Ghazni.** Carol Ruth has proposed to the San Francisco organization that developed the software that they support this project in Ghazni. Carol will get a sample cell phone to Bruce for him to take to get feedback from Afghans.

3. Report from Fundraising subcommittee (Arif, Layma, Hamed)

Ideas from last meeting:

- Sewing machines
- Festival honoring Ghazni in Hayward—this could be indoors or outdoors. We would need to have some participation from City of Hayward.
- Expanding literacy program in Ghazni to children

Not a lot of details were addressed, so this topic will need to be discussed further. A subcommittee would need to meet in person or by conference call. We would need to have commitments to serve on this subcommittee before going forward with exploring any of these ideas.

The primary purpose of fundraising would be to support the ongoing programs that the committee currently supports. While in Afghanistan Bruce can also discuss with Fatima any ideas she has about expanding the programs. The fundraising subcommittee could continue to meet, to focus on supporting our ongoing programs, to engage City of Hayward Council Members, and to plan an event honoring Ghazni in Hayward that would include some official representation from Hayward. The committee can explore a “festival” fundraising event that was a daytime celebration event and also a fundraiser.

Bruce will request reservation of Room 400 in Hayward City Hall from 6:00 to 9:00 for every month through the end of the 2013.

4. Report on progress on San Jose/Herat Sister City relationship.

- a. Bruce reported on a conversation with Dr. Qayoumi who has been having discussions with Afghans about interest in moving the Herat/SJ relationship into reality. The level of interest doesn't seem to have jelled yet, and there are still some questions in the local Afghans' minds about the position of the politicians in the city of San Jose on the sister city relationship. Bruce hopefully can generate some interest through his travel to Herat. Dr. Qayoumi meets monthly with the San Jose mayor, Chuck Reed, and he can bring up this topic. Bruce has a meeting planned with Tim Quigley (SCI board member) and John Gill, chair of another Sister City partnership between San Jose and Japan, to discuss the political understanding and support of the sister city idea. The Herati Afghans who met in October still will need to take more formal roles in a formation committee, and it would be great to have some people of a younger generation in San Jose to become involved. There is a group of young people in Herat who have established a group and a web site to form a sister city—and they don't have a partner who is interested yet. Bruce will meet with this group while he is in Herat. Bruce will also meet with Taiba and suggest that her daughter could be a connection with this group. Rahima is also willing to support Taiba in establishing the formation committee, just to get regular meetings established. Taiba Hosseini is a 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

Thank you to new officers.

FEEDBACK ON MEETING

None.

Adjourned at 8:45.

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

Carol Ruth will meet the fundraising Subcommittee at 6:00 before the next meeting.