

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**Sister Cities Commission – Special Meeting**

6:30 PM  
 January 10, 2024

**MINUTES**

Trails House  
 110 SE Bush St.

**COMMISSION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Commissioners:*

Wendy Pickering (*Excused Absence*)

Carole Noel

Emily Royce (*Excused Absence*)

John Girt

Ryan Opitz, Co-Chair

Diana Fleming

Shari Gehrke

Stephanie Angula, Co-Chair

*Youth Board Representative:*

Sanvi Madan *arrived at approximately 6:53 p.m.*

*Administrative Staff:*

Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 PM.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None.**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Sister Cities International 2024 Young Artist and Authors Showcase, (D)**

Applications are being accepted and the deadline is May 1. The theme is "Climatescape: Resilient Cities for Tomorrow's Climate". Co-Chair Angula recommended the Commission vote on whether to formally proceed with this program.

Co-Chair Angula and Shari Gehrke provided an overview of the Commission's participation in this process over the past two years.

The Commission discussed whether to continue participating in this program and potential parameters for the program.

**IT WAS MOVED BY JOHN GIRT, SECONDED BY DIANA FLEMING, TO:**

Proceed with the 2024 Young Artist and Authors Showcase in 2024.

**MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

The Commission discussed forming a subcommittee to participate in the application process with duties to include:

- Updating flier
- Updating contact lists
- Turning on the web application

Serving on the subcommittee is estimated to require an additional 3 hour time commitment per month.

IT WAS MOVED TO:

Form a subcommittee to work on implementing the 2024 Young Artist and Authors Showcase application process composed of:

- Carole Noel
- Diana Fleming
- Emily (will need to accept appointment)
- Stephanie Angula

**MOTION CARRIED, 6-0.**

The Committee will report out monthly.

**2023 Work Plan Review and Next Steps, (A)**

The Commission discussed 2023 retreat brainstorming.

Co-Chair Angula agreed to share the 2023 work plan document.

John Girt agreed to continue monitoring Sister Cities International communications.

The Commission discussed reviewing the 2023 work plan for 2024 and making adjustments and adding action items. Commissioners should come prepared with 1-2 action items for each work plan item at the February meeting.

**REPORTS**

**Youth Board Update (I)**

Sanvi Madan reported on a holiday Grinch movie night put on by the Youth Advisory Board. Sanvi announced a few upcoming events, including a Harry Potter night and State of Mind event.

**Moroccan Relief Update (I)**

John Girt reported that the fundraiser at Pickering Barn went really well. The Commission helped with the kids events. The Commission also helped organize, re-box, count and label donated goods last weekend.

The Commission had an interest in ensuring there are thank you notes or follow-up with the organizations that were involved in the Moroccan Fundraiser event such as MAPS and the Washington American Moroccan Association. It is important to have a continued relationship with these groups in the future. There may be additional follow-up work related to the donations.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.