

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission

Minutes

August 19, 2026

7:00 p.m. Kallsen Center

The August 19, 2026 meeting was held in the Kallsen Center and called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairman David Niemeyer.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Recognize Commission members present: Chairman David Niemeyer; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Katy Brand, John Gordon, Lucas Hawley - vice chairman, George Rohde
- Absent: Commissioners: Trustee Liaison, William Brady; Staff Liaison: Walker Steinke

Introduction of new commissioner:

- The Commission welcomed John Gordon and made introductions.

Approval of Minutes:

- The April 2026 minutes were read (no quorum in May), Katy Brand made the motion to approve, Lucas Hawley seconded, all approved. The minutes were approved.

Sister City Updates:

Büdingen, Germany Update:

- Katy Brand has no updated information on the 2027 Garden Show.
- Roxane Tyssen gave a brief update; this year was the Medieval Fest and next year should be Kulturnacht, however with the Garden Show, they may skip a year.
- Next year the Garden Show will last from April 22nd through October 3rd. Their new park area will be opening next year.
- Roxane Tyssen mentioned that she did inform Markus Gerlach and Sieglinde Huxorn-Engler about our discussions with Opishinia and how we wanted to introduce them to each other. Our thoughts are to have them invited to either the Christmas Market or the Kulturnacht Fest. It would be much easier for us to meet them in Germany since travel to the Ukraine is not possible at the moment. Markus responded positively at this suggestion and we will be scheduling a Teams/Zoom call with them to discuss details.

Mallow, Ireland Update:

- There are no updates on Mallow specifically however, Katy Brand mentioned that she has a friend who goes to Ireland to teach American Bluegrass music.
 - This can possibly lead to a musician exchange with musicians in Mallow. We will continue to discuss.
 - We are aware that we need to try to establish a more solid relationship with individuals in Mallow.

Nowy Sącz, Poland:

- Nothing to report.

Prospective Sister Cities:

Opishinia, Ukraine:

- Dave Niemeyer discussed the last call with Opishinia. We provided a brief background for John Gordon to bring him up to speed.
 - Marketing is also involved in the Teams calls.
 - We are hoping to create an event in the next 1-2 years that will feature their pottery and hopefully, some individual artists here in Tinley Park.
 - We could utilize the storefront space in Harmony Square.
 - The Marketing team on the call was also excited about some of the possibilities we discussed.

Jordan, Aqaba:

- Roxane Tyssen updated the commission on recent communications with the Counsel General of the Jordanian embassy, Mr. Ishan Sweiss. A brief background on the relationship was provided for John Gordon.
 - We are looking at other potential cities in Jordan.
 - We should consider inviting the Consul General to dinner at some point; keeping in mind Roberts Rules and OMA regulations.
 - We need to have clear communications regarding our concerns regarding travel.

Old Business:

- Nothing to report.

New and Continuing Business:

- America's 250th anniversary
 - We still have until the end of the year to roll out the questionnaire/jot-form as a way to connect sister cities with the Tinley Park community.
 - George Rohde discussed a veteran's project he is involved in and how it could tie into our outreach initiative.

Public comments/Announcements:

- There was no public for comments.

Adjourned:

- David Niemeyer asked for a motion to adjourn, Katy Brand made the motion, Lucas Hawley seconded, all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.