

Tinley Park Sister Cities Commission

Minutes, January 21, 2025

7:00 p.m. Kallsen Center

The January 21, 2025 meeting was held in the Kallsen Center and called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman David Niemeyer who led the meeting via phone.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call:

- Recognize Commission members present: Chairman David Niemeyer via phone; Secretary/Commissioner Roxane Tyssen; Commissioners: Lucas Hawley – vice chairman, Isam Kiswani, Jim Muller, Michele Rons
- Absent: Commissioners: Katy Brand, George Rohde; Trustee Liaison, William Brady;
- Staff Liaison: N/A

Announcement: Hannah Lipman has left the Village and we do not have a staff liaison at this current time.

Approval of Minutes:

- September 2025 minutes were read and approved.

Sister City Updates:

Büdingen, Germany Update:

- Roxane Tyssen updated the commission on her trip to Büdingen in November.
 - The boar hunt was interesting and fun; HRH Prince Johan Georg and his family are doing well as is HRH Prince Ludwig and his family (these are HRH Princess Elizabeth's sons and their families). It was great to spend some time with all of them again.
 - She met with the twinning cities commission while there and set aside time for a 2-hour meeting with the vice mayor, Katja Euler to update her on what sister cities and the Village of Tinley Park are doing.
 - Katja mentioned that they were unsure if an invitation would be extended for a visit in December for their Christmas market due to possible budget constraints but that she would keep me updated with our regular communications.
 - The upcoming 40th anniversary of the relationship between Büdingen and Tinley Park was mentioned in the meeting. While it's not until 2029, we both felt it is important to keep it as a discussion point for both sister/twinning cities groups.
 - Several new connections were made including some employees from the Büdingen tourism office and a member of their twinning cities group that we have not yet met.
 - Roxane was present for the tree (and street) lighting ceremony in the marketplatz. There was a children's choir as well as food and beverages available for purchase. The Christmas market would not open for another 10 days and this event was a pre-cursor to that.

- She was able to visit the gravesite and pay last respects to our long-time friend Edda Denengard who unexpectedly passed away in 2024. Her passing is still felt on both sides.
- She was able to meet with our friend Martin at the Frankfurt Christmas Market and see our friend Hieke who both were in Tinley Park when they last visited in 2018.
- Roxane rented a car for this visit and happily stated that she survived the autobahn.
- Lucas Hawley has a friend he knows locally who had visited Büdingen in the early days of the exchanges and donated some materials to the commissioners – old ball cap hats with pins, some lithographs,

Mallow, Ireland Update:

- We are hoping to hear from the County Cork contingency when they visit Chicago in March.

Nowy Sącz, Poland:

- Nothing to report.

Prospective Sister Cities:

Jordan, Aqaba:

- Isam Kiswani has spoken with Peter in Aqaba. Due to proximity to Israel and Palestine, safety is still a concern for any potential visits.
 - Ramadan is February 18 through March 19, Eid should be March 20; communications with them will be sparse until after Ramadan and Eid have passed.
- We are still hoping to have a sister cities relationship with a community in Jordan.

Ukraine:

- Dave Niemeyer is still in discussions with setting up a relationship with a municipality in the Ukraine.
 - It will likely start out similar to how the relationship with Ghadamis began; perhaps a monthly or bi-monthly zoom call with a group of officials from Village Hall and then sister cities will step in and begin to establish a relationship with them.

Municipality of Ghadamis, Libya:

- While there is nothing going on, the commission is still hoping to find a translator so that communications can be re-established again and begin to have a sister cities relationship with them.

Old Business:

- Nothing to report.

New and Continuing Business:

- America's 250th anniversary
 - We are waiting for communications from the marketing department to see how we can be involved in the celebrations.

Public comments/Announcements:

- There was no public for comments.
- The commission had no announcements.

Adjourned:

- Roxane Tyssen asked for a motion to adjourn, Lucas Hawley made the motion, Jim Muller seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kallsen Center.