

Sioux Falls Sister Cities Association
January 15, 2009
Center for Active Generations

The Sioux Falls Sister Cities Association met for the annual meeting at the Center for Active Generations.

President, Ginny Beck, introduced Ken McFarland, Minnehaha County Administrator. Ken included the fact that Minnehaha County has a Sister City in Ireland, Limerick. This is not official with the Sister Cities International. The was started April 17, 1990 and reaffirmed in 1997. There has been some communication and exchange of gifts. The last, was a County quilt sent to Limerick and a Waterford Crystal clock was received from Limerick. Ken gave an overview of the services the County provides. County roads and bridges are maintained without any property tax money. This is the only county that does this. All roads in the county system are paved. Law enforcement and welfare are a huge expense. The challenge for 2009 will be the explosion of expenditures and no ability to cap them. Thank you to Ken McFarland for an interesting look at Minnehaha County.

A short business meeting was held.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Hauff presented the 2008 financial report and the 2009 budget. There will be no city funds this year. CD: \$xx,xxx.xx and Checking: \$x,xxx.xx. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Claims: The Post Office Box fee is due, \$xx.xx; Insurance (bond insurance), \$xxx.xx; Downtown Sioux Falls membership, \$xxx.xx. The expenses were approved.

German Fest: Ginny announced that Larry Sprenger has resigned from the Sister Cities along with the VP position and the head of the German Fest. Dale Schmidt has agreed to take on these responsibilities.

Ireland: Michael Carr emailed Ginny that Newry and Mourne is still interested in Sioux Falls as a Sister City and was pretty sure that a formal invitation will be issued this spring. Do we want to pursue? It was recommended that we wait until the invitation is issued to discuss moving forward.

Upcoming Events: The Fasching in New Ulm is February 21. Ginny will drive. Potsdam is hosting a conference on Youth on Violence in October, 2009, and would like representatives from Sister Cities to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Thanks to Helga for the delicious treats!