**Scituate Sister City Ireland, West Cork, Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

**Scituate Public Library, Large Conference Room**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members present: Brenda O’Connor, Chair; Siobhán Hunter, Vice Chair; Kevin Callanan; Audrey Donovan; Richard Hebert; Brian Houlihan; Pat Jacquart; Patrice Maye; Peter Mehegan; John Sullivan; Christine Walsh

Members excused: Katie Miller; John Danehy; Brendan Murphy; Carol Sullivan-Hanley

1. **Acceptance of Agenda**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept it.

1. **Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from October 25, 2017. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the minutes, pending minor changes.

1. **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Scituate/West Cork Sister City Committee is to promote partnerships; foster an understanding of cultures and traditions; facilitate exchange programs for students and adults; encourage tourism; share advances in business and education; and provide activities that will be of mutual benefit to Scituate and West Cork.

VOTE: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Mission Statement as presented. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the Mission Statement.

1. **Selectmen’s Update**

Brenda provided an update on her conference call with members of the Cork County Council. The sister city partnership agreement was signed with Cork County Council; this means Cork County is our twin, with emphasis on West Cork. A delegation visit is slated for April. The committee is interested in population numbers and how Cork could sustain exchange opportunities. The Council will send a proposal for the delegation visit to include (possibly):

* Signed copy of book by author Alice Taylor.
* Tour of West Cork whiskey brewery.
* Tour of arts centers (Skibbereen Art Center, etc.)
1. **Treasurer Report**
* The Scituate Sister City Ireland, West Cork committee has a checking account, with committee Treasurer, Christine Walsh, as the signer. The Board discussed the need for adding a second signatory, possibly the Vice President Siobhan Hunter.
* The current mailing address associated with the committee and the account is Christine’s. There was a discussion on whether we should open a PO Box, but Christine is okay with maintaining the mail.
* Now that the committee has a discrete account, Siobhan can add a donation page on its website and a Donate Now button on its Facebook page.
1. **Branding / Marketing Update**

Logo

* The Board reviewed a concept design for the West Cork Sister City Partnership logo that links to Sucy-en-Brie’s (SeB) and the overarching Scituate Sister City Partnership (SSCP). Concept image draws from passport stamps.
* The Board discussed whether we want our logo to derive from SSCP and SeB, as part of a thematic run of logos (i.e. showcasing SSCP as the umbrella committee, with us nested beneath it).
* All agreed that it’s powerful to have link between all Scituate Sister City partnerships. However, the Board would like to see a more detailed logo for West Cork. Something indigenous to both cities. For example, several Board members would like to see the fuschia incorporated into the design, as the fuschia is endemic to West Cork and to its placemaking imagery. They also suggested, if keeping the passport stamp motif, that the West Cork stamp be circular to allow for the fuschia.
* The Board would entertain another logo concept.
* Once logo finalized, we can roll out with car stickers, T-shirts, etc.

Informational Brochures

The Board needs to begin planning a trifold brochure promoting the partnership. It could incorporate sponsorship opportunities with giving categories.

1. **Fundraising/Awareness Events Update**

Gaelic Games

* Gaelic Football: John Farrell, chairperson of Northeast GAA, would be delighted to meet with committee regarding partnership potential. Many Scituate youth play Gaelic football in Canton.
* Road Bowling: This sport is unique to County Cork. Stateside, it’s played it at Arnold Arboretum.

Irish Film Festival

An airing of the John Hume film is scheduled for March 31 at Scituate High School’s Performing Arts Center. John Hume’s son and Tip O’Neill’s son are both interested in attending the opening.

Tinker Son event

* Wednesday, March 7 before St. Patrick’s Day.
* Traditional boiled dinner with 50% proceeds to committee.
* Raffle basket of Irish goods.
* Seisún?

South Shore Art Center Art Exhibit Update

* Postponed to September 2018
* Maureen Connolly of Aisling Gallery agreed to collaborate on showcasing works. One of Aisling’s artists, Vincent Crotty, is a prominent artist from Cantirk of Cork and his wife a dancer. They may be a draw.

Maritime Center

The Board discussed using the Maritime Center during Heritage Days to promote SSCP, possibly for a book signing for Sheila Connolly. We would like to secure the site for free as a town committee.

Tea & Irish Bread at Senior Center

March 21; 10:30am

Irish Dancing Lessons

Brenda is in discussion with someone who could lead Irish dancing lessons, i.e. Siege of Ennis.

Update on Exchanges: Irish Language Study & Environmental

* Audrey spoke with Kate Ciulla, Chair of SPS Language Department and Kathy Elich (sp?) Chair of SPS Science Department to discuss ways the Scituate/Cork exchange could roll out (i.e. Irish language lessons; discussions on environmental science).
* On a side note, the Board will look into grant funding through environmental foundations.

Presence at Town Events

The Board agreed that the committee should have a presence at town events, with ideas including:

* Float at St. Patrick’s Day Parade
* Booth at Heritage Days.
* Event at Maritime Center during Heritage Days.

Irish Film Festival

* Taking place at St. Mary’s. Five dates, open to general public:
* 1/18
* 2/1
* 2/15
* 2/22
* 3/1
* There will also be a children’s day on 1/20 from 12:30-3PM featuring one of the following: *Red Balloon*; *Secret of Roan Inish* or *Into the West*
* We will promote the festival through SCTV, WATD, *South Shore Living*
1. **New Business**

Peter Mehegan is going to host a trip to Ireland in July. There will be publicity associated with it, and we may be able to raise funding through cross-promotion.

1. **Committee Meeting Schedule**

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will take place at the Scituate Public Library, Large Conference Room.

* Wednesday, January 3, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, February 7, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, March 7, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, April 4, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, May 2, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, June 6, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, August 1, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, September 5, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, October 3, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, November 7, 7:00PM
* Wednesday, December 4, 7:00PM

The meeting adjourned at 8:34p.m.