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

**Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

**Scituate Public Library, Large Conference Room**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.m.

Members present: Brenda O’Connor, Chair; Siobhan Hunter, Vice Chair; Kevin Callanan; John Danehy Audrey Donovan; Richard Hebert; Brian Houlihan; Patrice Maye; Peter Mehegan; Brendan Murphy; Carol Sullivan-Hanley; John Sullivan; Christine Walsh

Members excused: Pat Jacquart; Katie Miller

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 September 13, 2017. The Board voted unanimously in favor to accept the minutes, pending one change – the meeting began at 7:05 p.m., not 7:05 a.m as presented.

1. **Selectmen Update**

* Selectmen John Danehy briefed the committee on selectmen activities relevant to the partnership. He and Brenda O’Connor are trying to schedule a conference call with the Irish consul to identify the West Cork town that will serve as Scituate’s sister city. The selection process is ongoing.
* The committee would like the Board of Selectmen to consider a line item in the annual budget to support sister city activities, i.e. $5,000 to be shared with the Sucy-en-Brie partnership.

1. **Sister City Project Representive**

The committee agreed for the need for a representative, or representatives, from the West Cork Sister City committee to participate in Scituate Sister City Project meetings, perhaps on an alternating basis. Carol Hanley-Sullivan volunteered to attend the next Scituate Sister City Project meeting.

1. **Elections, Treasurer**

The committee agreed for the need to separate funding raised for the West Cork Partnership from general Scituate Sister City Project funding. This will require a committee Treasurer. Christine Walsh volunteered to serve as Treasurer. The Board voted unanimously in favor of Christine assuming this role.

1. **Branding / Marketing Collateral**

* John Sullivan will work on designing a logo. Concept development included the fuschia flower which is endemic to West Cork.
* The Facebook page is ready to launch!
* The committee could activate the West Cork Sister City website with a blog to include contributions by each committee member.
* Can we add a Donate Now button to the website and/or Facebook page?
* Carol Hanley-Sullivan has good connections with a printer. The South Shore Vocational Technical School also provides affordable print services.

1. **Delegation Trip / City Exchanges**

* Plans for the delegation trip and any community exchanges are on hold until the committee finalizes a West Cork sister city.
* All five Selectmen want to participate in the delegation trip.
* Brenda shared pricing for airfare/travel.

1. **Fundraising/Awareness Events**

The committee would like to build awareness and funding for the West Cork Sister City Partnership with a series of connected events and opportunities to launch in early February. This provides a perfect lead-in to “Irish History Month” and slated St. Patrick’s Day activities, which will help cement the partnership brand, and allows us to tie in with existing Scituate Harbor Cultural District planning.

The committee discussed an “Intro Week” to commence on Friday, February 2, which coincides with First Friday in Scituate Harbor. Events to follow would include:

* Selectmen’s Meeting/Proclamation (Committee lead: John Danehy)
* Kick-off community event
  + Talk and book launch by Irish author Sheila Connolly (Committee lead: Carol Hanley-Sullivan)
  + Tea and Irish bread for seniors. Maybe host an Irish bread contest? (Committee lead: Brenda O’Connor)
  + Irish Mossing Museum
  + Irish dancing demos
  + Hurling/Gaelic football game.
* An art show at South Shore Art Center in partnership with Aisling Gallery. South Shore Art Center would waive the gallery rental fee. Local artists could showcase works of or inspired by Ireland, with proceeds (less artist commissions) to support the West Cork partnership. Target date 2/24.
* Irish dinner at Tinker’s Son for $50pp, with cash bar. Half of the proceeds would support the West Cork Sister City partnership.
* Joint fundraiser with Sucy-en-Brie committee – possibly a casino night, or Texas Hold’em.
* Event with Irish Consul General at the BC Club?
* Irish Film Festival at St. Mary’s with suggested donation of $10.
  + John Hume film.
  + *Secret of Roan Inish,*
  + *Into the West*
  + *Secret of Kells*
  + *Sign of the Sea*
  + *The Commitments*
  + *The Snapper*
* Press to build audiences (Committee lead: Peter Mehegan)

1. **New Business**

Committee members will reach out to Scituate residents who could assist with leading cultural activities for exchanges:

* Lisa Rafferty, theatre (Brenda)
* Jim Thomas and Bill Richter, music programming (Brenda)
* Visual artists, writers, poets (Patrice)
* Commercial fishermen (Brian)
* Marj Bates, SOSSEXI
* New brewery (Brian)
* Recreation department/sports

1. **Other Business**

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, December 6, 7:00PM** at the Scituate Public Library, Large Conference Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41p.m.