

**CITY OF DELAWARE  
SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD  
JANUARY 13, 2015  
6:00-7:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AGENDA**

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of the Motion Summary of the Sister City Advisory Board meeting held October 14, 2014, as recorded and transcribed.
3. Date of next meeting (TENTATIVE Date: April 14)
4. City Status Updates:
  - a. Baumholder, Germany
  - b. Arequipa, Peru
  - c. Sakata, Japan
  - d. Omutninsk, Russia
5. Advisory Board Development
  - a. Possible Rotary Club Contacts
  - b. Coordination between City Staff and Advisory Board
  - c. Global Scholars Diploma
6. Adjournment

**SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD  
MOTION SUMMARY  
October 14, 2014**

ITEM 1. Roll Call

Chairman Guebert called the Sister City Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Members Present: Hong Nguyen, Luke Powers, Dan Bartha, Mayor Carolyn Riggle, Councilman Andrew Brush, and Chairman Rand Guebert

Members Absent: Rita Selle-Grider and Will Kopp

ITEM 2. APPROVAL of the Motion Summary of the Sister City Advisory Board meeting held on July 8, 2014, as recorded and transcribed.

**MOTION:** Mayor Riggle moved to approve the motion summary of the Sister City Advisory Board meeting held on July 8, 2014, seconded by Mr. Brush. Motion approved by a 5-0-1 (Powers) vote.

ITEM 3. Date of next meeting (TENTATIVE Date: January 13)

ITEM 4. City Council Update

- a. Board annual report delivered August 25
- b. Adoption Process and criteria approved September 8
- c. City Council perspective moving forward.

Mr. Guebert reviewed the approval by Delaware City Council on September 8, 2014 on the adoption process and criteria. Mr. Brush recommended for Mr. Guebert to use Mr. Homan as a liaison to communicate needs with Council.

ITEM 5. Advisory Board Development

- a. Community involvement and Board member responsibilities
- b. Purpose and community image

Mr. Guebert welcomed Mr. Powers to the Sister City Advisory Board. Mr. Powers is the representative for the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Guebert would like to work with Mr. Yoakum to receive professional public relations advice.

ITEM 6. City Status Updates

- a. Baumholder, Germany

Mr. Bartha informed the Board that the school is considering a visit in spring of 2015.

b. Arequipa, Peru

The Clerk read a drafted letter into the record to Mayor Tejado Zegarro informing him of the Delaware Sister City Advisory Board and the interest for a visit.

Mr. Guebert spoke of the concern of the language barrier, and felt that the Board will need to organize a group of Spanish speaking residents in the City of Delaware.

Mr. Guebert spoke to the Board on a prospective visit to Arequipa, and discussed who should be part of the group for the visit. Mr. Guebert recommends that the group consist of a city council representative, advisory board members, school representative, and a Spanish speaker as a guide.

Mr. Guebert read into the record the last formal communication between the City of Delaware and the City of Arequipa, which was dated in 2012.

c. Sakata, Japan

Mr. Guebert provided information on the annual trip of Sakata students to the City of Delaware, which is scheduled for October 31 through November 5, 2014.

Mr. Guebert read into the record a drafted letter to the Mayor of Sakato from Mayor Riggle on extending the relationship between the two cities.

d. Omuntninsk, Russia

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Olen, 358 ½ N. Sandusky Street, Delaware Ohio, 43015

Mr. Olen provided information to the Board on his past international experiences as a Peace Corps. Mr. Olen stated that during periods of differences between countries it is an important time to increase communication, as this will provide an understanding of others perspectives.

Mr. Brush recommended to the Sister City Advisory Board that groups be formed so that specific groups focus on learning about specific cities and locations.

ITEM 7. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Mayor Riggle moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Brush. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

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Rand Guebert, Chairman

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Elaine McCloskey, Clerk

## Michele Kohler

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**From:** Rand Guebert <rand.guebert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 04, 2015 6:32 PM  
**To:** Daniel Bartha; Andrew Brush; William Kopp; Hong Nguyen; Luke Powers; Carolyn Riggle; Rita Selle  
**Cc:** R Thomas Homan  
**Subject:** Delaware Sister City Advisory Board Meeting Notes - Jan 13, 2015  
**Attachments:** SakataReply12.19.14.pdf; Sakata Letter 10.29.14.docx; Arequipa Letter 10.20.14.docx

Happy New Year to everyone!

First, let me invite you to a Russian themed social time before our meeting on the 13th from 5:15 pm outside the council chamber. We will have some pierogis and tea for refreshment.

Below is some background on proposed agenda items:

3. **Date of next meeting:** Michele is checking on Tuesday, April 14.
4. City Updates:
  - a. **Baumholder** - Tom and I spoke to Peter Lang on December 18, and it seems that the Realschule will be restructured or closed in the next two years. Peter is checking what will be the best way to proceed with a school exchange most likely to recommence in the 2015-16 school year. We hope to hear from him before our meeting.
  - b. **Sakata** - Carolyn received the attached letter from the mayor of Sakata at the end of December. This is a promising start. How to proceed?--see 5b. below.
  - c. **Arequipa** - The attached letter was sent at the end of October and we are awaiting a response. There have been local elections in Arequipa recently and this may have delayed things.
  - d. **Omutninsk** - Since our last meeting I have met Elena Lubenets and Anastasia Martimyan who will come to our meeting on the 13th. Elena is bringing the pierogis. Elena lives in Dublin and grew up near Omutninsk, is a banking analyst for Chase, and would like to help us develop a new relationship with Omutninsk / Kirov. Anastasia just graduated from OSU and is also interested in our evolving relationship with Omutninsk. I invited them to our meeting so they could learn a little more about Delaware and our sister city program.

5a. Possible **Rotary Club** Involvement - Tom and I are in the Delaware Rotary Club and there are Rotary Clubs in or near all of our sister cities. If the Delaware Club is in agreement we could perhaps reach out to these other clubs and see if they could help us develop our sister city relationships--I think this would be consistent with Rotary's international objectives. This is a topic for discussion.

5b. Coordination between City Administration and the Advisory Board - This point is prompted by the Sakata letter and is a point for discussion during the next couple months.

5c. The Columbus Council on World Affairs is now offering a Global Scholars Diploma as a supplement to a traditional high school education. Granville already has 80 students enrolled and the Columbus North International School has 40. Delaware City Schools may be interested in adopting this program also, and it could become an excellent complement to our sister city activities.

If there are other topics you would like to add to the agenda, please let me know--also, if you will not be able to attend.

See you on the 13th,

Rand



December 19, 2014

The Honorable Carolyn Kay Riggle  
Mayor, City of Delaware  
City Hall, 1 South Sandusky Street  
Delaware, Ohio 43015 USA

Dear Mayor Riggle,

I hope you find yourself in good health.

I would like to thank you for your city's warm welcome of the junior high school students from our city over the years, for which we are truly grateful.

In June of this year when the students visited from Dempsey Middle School we discussed plans for further extending our relationship beyond student exchange, I was very happy to receive the letter you sent us in regards to this.

Our city would love the opportunity to discuss more specific plans for developing our sister city relationship.

Last year Sakata City introduced a program aimed at teaching English to young children in a fun way, so the chances of the people of Sakata using English have increased greatly. There have also been requests from the people of Sakata for more interaction with cities of English speaking countries, so we are counting on our long-standing relationship with the government and the people of Delaware City.

In 2012, Five students learning Japanese and their Japanese lecturers from Ohio Wesleyan University visited our city. They spent time with students from Tohoku University of Community Service and Science here in Sakata, as well as with their host families during homestays, and they were able to experience the nature, culture and hospitality that Sakata has to offer.

Lastly, I hope that Delaware enjoys continued prosperity, and I pray for your health and happiness.

Regards,

酒田市長 本間正巳

Masami Honma  
Mayor

December 19, 2014

Dear the person in charge of sister city relations in Delaware City

I am very pleased to meet you.

My name is Yoshinobu Yoshida, and I am the Section Chief of the International Exchange Section overseeing Sakata City's sister city relations.

It makes me very happy that Delaware City is in talks with our city about possibilities for sister city cultural exchange in a variety of different areas.

Our city is contemplating options for cultural exchange in a variety of areas, and in order for the discussions to run smoothly I ask that you communicate with the person in charge of the International Exchange Section through email.

The contact email address of the person in charge of the section is as follows:

Rika Abe  
Manager, International Exchange Section, Sakata City Office  
Email: kokusai@city.sakata.lg.jp

I ask that you kindly inform us of the email address of the person in charge of sister city relations in Delaware City.

Please let us know of any necessary items for the discussions, or any other requests regarding cultural exchange by contacting our person in charge. In the same way we will inform you when necessary.

I look forward to working with you further.

Regards,

吉田 吉信

Yoshinobu Yoshida  
Sakata City International Exchange Section Chief

October 29, 2014

The Honorable Masami Honma  
Mayor, Sakata Shi  
Honcho 2-2-45  
Sakata Shi, Yamagata Ken  
Japan 998-0044

Dear Mayor Honma:

As Mayor of Delaware I want to extend greetings from our city to yours. I also want to thank you and the city of Sakata for sending students to visit us each of the last 16 years, and for hosting the visit of our own students this past June. These visits have touched the lives of many residents of our community.

With this background I would like to initiate further discussions on how we might extend our relationship beyond the school exchange. Delaware is the governmental seat of the fastest growing county in Ohio and the home of Ohio Wesleyan University. Our city is also a 30-minute drive from both the Honda assembly plant in neighboring Marysville and the state capital in Columbus.

This past year Delaware City Council formed a sister-city advisory board, which is chaired by Mr. Rand Guebert. I have asked Mr. Guebert and city manager, Mr. Tom Homan, to work with your staff to coordinate further discussions, which perhaps could be conducted in conjunction with the school visits.

I look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming representatives of the Sakata City administration here in Delaware,

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kay Riggle  
Mayor

cc: Mr. Rand Guebert  
Mr. Tom Homan

October 24, 2014

The Honorable Dr. Alfredo Tejada Zegarra  
Mayor, Arequipa  
Calle El Filtro 501  
Arequipa, Peru

Dear Mayor Tejada Zegarra:

I am honored to write to you as the mayor of the City of Delaware, Ohio, and very pleased to congratulate you on your re-election as mayor of Arequipa. I look forward to working with you during your new term.

I am aware that letters have been exchanged in the past between our two cities. I am gratified by the interest that you have expressed in exploring a sister-city relationship with Delaware, and we want to move this process forward.

Through discussions with Mr. Patricio Plazolles, we have been introduced to the culture and economy of Arequipa. We believe that we could have a very effective relationship in coming years that would benefit both cities.

I would like to invite you, and others in your administration, to visit Delaware during 2015 to see our city and discuss further cooperation. It would be my intention as Delaware mayor to organize a delegation for a return visit.

Last year, Delaware City Council formed a sister-city advisory board, which is chaired by Mr. Rand Guebert, and which works closely with Mr. Tom Homan, city manager. I have asked Mr. Guebert and Mr. Plazolles if they would work with your staff and Mr. Homan to organize the necessary discussions and visits which could lead to a formal relationship between our two cities.

I look forward to hearing from you and to visiting Arequipa in the future.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Kay Riggle  
Mayor

cc: Mr. Tom Homan  
Mr. Rand Guebert  
Mr. Patricio Plazolles

