



April 6, 2018

To: Columbia Association Board of Directors
CA Management

From: Andrew C. Stack, Board Chair

The Columbia Association Board of Directors Work Session will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at Columbia Association headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21046.

AGENDA

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| 1. Call to Order | 5 min. |
| (a) Announce Directors/Senior Staff Members in Attendance | |
| (b) Remind People that Work Sessions are not Recorded/Broadcast | |
| (c) Read Five Civility Principles | |
| 2. Approval of Agenda | 1 min. |
| 3. Resident Speakout
(Limited to the topics of the work session only, per the "Policy on Conduct of Work Sessions of Board of Directors and Board Committees" adopted by the CA Board of Directors on August 28, 2008) | |
| 4. Chairman's Remarks | 3 min. |
| 5. President's Remarks; Follow-Up Questions from the Board Members | 10 min. |
| 6. Work Session Topics | 130 min. |
| (a) Sister Cities Presentation – Liyang, China | <i>(15 min.)</i> |
| (b) Briefing on the Plans for the Athletic Club Closure | <i>(45 min.)</i> |
| (c) Fairway Hills Beverage Cart | <i>(10 min.)</i> |
| (d) Plan for Neighborhood Centers | <i>(60 min.)</i> |
| 7. Adjournment – Anticipated Ending Time: Approximately 10:15 p.m. | |

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, April 26, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN INTERPRETER FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED CAN BE MADE BY CALLING 410-715-3111 AT LEAST THREE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

CA Mission Statement

Working every day in hundreds of ways to make Columbia an even better place to live, work, and play.

CA Vision Statement

Making Columbia the community of choice today and for generations to come.

April 5, 2018

Chair's Remarks April 12, 2018 Board Work Session

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time</u>
Apr 8, 2018	Art Reception at Bernice Kish Gallery (Slayton House)	3:00 PM
Apr 9, 2018	MD Non-Profits Board Governance workshop (Howard County Conservancy)	4:30 PM RR
Apr 11, 2019	Design Advisory Panel meeting regarding Dorsey Overlook (new apartment complex on Rt. 108 Dorsey's Search)	7:00 PM
Apr 12, 2018	CA Board work session	7:30 PM
Apr 13, 2017	Blossoms of Hope Gala Reception and Ribbon Awards Ceremony (Columbia Art Center)	6:00 PM
Apr 15, 2018	Historic Oakland Weddings & Events Showcase (Town Center; event fee)	1:00 PM
Apr 17, 2018	Volunteering Made Easy	6:00 PM RR
Apr 19, 2017	Volunteer Leaders training	6:30 PM RR
Apr 19, 2018	Continuation of Planning Board meeting regarding Lakefront Core Neighborhood (work session only, no testimony)	7:00 PM
Apr 19, 2018	Planning Board hearing on Erickson Living Proposal	7:00 PM
Apr 20, 2018	Long Reach Indoor Tennis Facility Grand Opening	6:00 PM
Apr 20, 2018	Lively Arts for Little Ones presents Oh Susanna (The Other Barn; event fee)	10:00 AM
Apr 21, 2018	GreenFest (Howard Community College)	10:00 AM
Apr 21, 2018	Time Bank Skillshare Fair & Swap + Repair Cafe (part of Greenfest at HHC; NOTE: must pre-register for Repair Cafe)	Noon
Apr 22, 2018	Explore Columbia's Sister Cities: 5 Countries in 4 Hours (The Mall in Columbia)	1:00 PM
Apr 26, 2018	CA Board meeting	9:00 AM
Apr 28, 2018	Village elections	varies

Apr 30, 2018	Athletic Club closed for renovations (reopen in late fall 2018)	
May 3, 2018	Spending Affordability briefing for CA Board and community	6:00 PM
May 5, 2018	Open Streets Activity (Long Reach High School)	1:00 PM
May 7, 2018	Zoning Board hearing regarding Long Reach Village Center redevelopment	7:30 PM

RR = Registration Required

Dinner with Howard County Chamber Executive Board went well; thanks to Janet Loughran for arranging it. On April 5th, spoke at the Women's Democratic Alliance meeting about Village Board duties and responsibilities. The Women's Democratic Alliance is focused on empowering Howard County women for social, political and community action and engagement. The other panelists include Bess Caplan, Wilde Lake Village Board; Shari Zaret, King's Contrivance Village Board and Lynn Foehrkolb, Town Center Village Board.



Date: March 29, 2018

To: Members of the CA Board of Directors

Thru: Milton Matthews, President

From: Michelle Miller, Community Services Director

cc: Leslie Barnett, Assistant Director, Community Services
Laura Smit, International Exchange & Multicultural Programs Manager

Re: Establishing a new Sister City with Liyang, China Presentation

CA's International Exchange program and the China Sister City Planning Committee are interested in developing a new sister city relationship for Columbia with the city of Liyang, China.

Members of the China Sister City Planning Committee will be making a presentation at the April 12, 2018 CA Board of Directors Work Session. They will be providing the reasons why they are proposing that CA move forward with establishing a new sister city relationship with Liyang, China.

Background on Proposed New Chinese Sister City Relationship for Columbia

The **China Sister City Planning Committee**, a subcommittee of Columbia Association's International & Multicultural Advisory Committee to CA's International Exchange & Multicultural Programs (IEMP), is proposing a new sister city relationship for Columbia. The city being proposed is **Liyang, Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China**. The China Sister City Planning Committee, which has developed this relationship, is composed of volunteers who are of Chinese heritage as well as non-Chinese-Americans with an interest in China and Chinese culture.

Why establish a new sister city relationship with a city in China?

Columbia currently has four Sister Cities: two in Europe (Cergy-Pontoise, France - est.1977 and Tres Cantos, Spain - est.1990), one in West Africa (Tema, Ghana - est. 2014), and one in the Caribbean/Western Hemisphere (Cap-Haitien, Haiti - est. 2016). Liyang, China would be Columbia's **5th Sister City**, providing the residents of Columbia with opportunities for people-to-people relationships with a country that has 5,000 years of history, a population of 1.4 billion people (1/5th of humanity) and is a world power with investments in every continent. In the United States there are over 200 sister, county and state relationships with communities (to in the People's Republic of China. A sister city relationship with a city in China would help advance understanding of China and its rich cultural heritage.

Large Chinese-American Community in Columbia/Howard County

There are over 8,000 Chinese-Americans living in Columbia/Howard County and there are 3 Chinese weekend schools here with ~1,500 Chinese-American students and 200 non-Chinese-American families taking language and culture classes.

How was the relationship between Columbia and Liyang developed?

In late 2015, Liyang was selected from list of **8 candidate cities** by a group of Chinese-American community members seeking to identify a Sister City for Columbia in China. In Jan. 2016, representatives from the Chinese-American community proposed Liyang as Chinese sister city for Columbia to **CA's International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC)** which agreed to further explore the proposal. CA's **China Sister City Planning Committee** was created to study the feasibility of creating a sister city relationship with Liyang.

Why Liyang?

The current Chair of the China Sister City Planning Committee was born in Liyang. Under his leadership, the China Committee has worked closely with Success International Mutual Liaison Services, a Maryland-based company that specializes in China - U.S. youth exchanges. Success International has a close working relationship with the Liyang Mayor's office, as well as the Liyang Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce, and has been bringing students from Liyang High School to Maryland for the past few years. Some of these Chinese students have visited Columbia during CA's European summer high school exchange and have participated in activities here in Columbia.

Columbia/Howard County Delegation visited Liyang in Oct 2017

Success International organized a tour to China in October 2017 for a Delegation of 21 people from Columbia/Howard County (including CA Board members Alan Klein and Dick Boulton, State Delegate Eric Ebersole and former Howard County Executive Liz Bobo). The Delegation spent three days in Liyang and was favorably impressed with the city and its surroundings. During this trip, a Letter of Intent was signed between the two cities to further pursue the Sister City relationship.

Why is Liyang a good choice for Columbia?

Liyang is a small city by Chinese standards (population 780,000) with more than 2,300 years of history. It is located 143 miles west of Shanghai in Jiangsu province, southern China. Jiangsu is a leading southern Chinese province in education, tourism, technology and business. Surrounded by many mountains, lakes, white tea farms and a bamboo forest, Liyang attracts many visitors, both domestic and international tourists. Liyang has earned the distinction, "Town of Longevity" due to its clean, beautiful environment, healthy lifestyle and excellent healthcare system. A famous tea ceremony is held every two years in Liyang. With access to a well-developed road and highway network, many nearby airports, and a high-speed train system, Liyang is easily reached from the cities of Shanghai and Beijing. Liyang boasts a nationally-renowned education system and some of their high schools already participate in overseas student exchange programs, both virtual and in-person. Columbia and Liyang share similar values such as environmental stewardship, high educational standards, quality of life for their residents and enhancing international relationships as evidenced by the existence of existing Sister City relationships in Canada, Europe and the U.S.

Estimated Cost to CA of adding Liyang, China as a Sister City: Adding Liyang as a 5th sister city for Columbia will not require increases in CA staffing. The existing Program Manager for International Exchange & Multicultural Programs and her part-time Assistant will manage the Liyang sister city relationship along with an engaged volunteer Liyang Sister City Committee. Hosting of Chinese exchange visitors will be at homes of community members, and any travel to China by residents of Columbia will be at their own expense. It is estimated that annual administrative expenses would be approximately \$1,000 (copies/printing, office supplies, mailing/postage, meeting refreshments, official gifts and cards). If the Mayor of Liyang visits Columbia to sign the agreement, there would be some one time expenses of \$1,000 - \$2,000 for hosting the Chinese delegation including hotel, meals, signing ceremony expenses).

Next Steps

If the Columbia Association Board of Directors approves the China Committee's request to create a sister cities relationship between Columbia and Liyang, the official partnership agreement will be signed. The China Sister City Planning Committee will be renamed the "Columbia - Liyang Sister City Committee" and it would begin to explore the possibility of developing youth and adult exchanges in coordination with CA International Exchange & Multicultural Programs staff and IMAC.

China Sister City Planning Committee Members

* = Traveled to China with the Columbia/Howard County Delegation in Oct. 2017

1. **Liz Bobo*** - Former State of Maryland Delegate representing West Columbia, 1994-2014; Former Howard County, MD County Executive, 1986-1990; member of Tema Sister City Committee; member of Cap-Haitien Sister City Committee
2. **Magdalena Castro Lewis*** - Chair of Tres Cantos Sister City Committee; member of IMAC; former Vice President for Programs, National Alliance for Hispanic Health, 1993 to 2016; Current Co-President of ALMA, Hispanic Consulting and Translation Services, LLC.
3. **Boyang Chen** - High school student
4. **Hui Dong** - Born in Liyang; Chair of China Sister City Planning Committee; Senior Engineer at Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD).
5. **Amy Feng** - community member - Application Architect at FTI consulting
6. **Marcy Gitt*** IMAC Committee (previous Vice Chair)
Retired Program Manager for China Adoption for an International Agency
7. **Warren Gitt*** - Retired Global Vice President of Product Management and Business Development for K2M Inc., a spinal implant company
8. **Jun Han*** - President, Success International Mutual Liaison Services
Member of China Sister City Planning Committee
9. **Barbara Kellner*** - Former Director of Columbia Archives; Vice-Chair of China Sister City Planning Committee, member of Cergy-Pontoise Sister City Committee
10. **Linda Potsiadlo*** - Member of IMAC member; member of Cergy-Pontoise Sister City Committee; Faculty member, Notre Dame of Maryland University; retired HCPSS ESOL teacher
11. **Andrew Qian** - High School student
12. **Carol Jo Roeder*** - Member of IMAC; Member of Cergy-Pontoise Sister City Committee

13. **Fangqun Shi** - President, Sci-Asia International Culture Exchange Center
14. **Maria Angelica Vargas** - Director of International Business Development at Howard County Economic Development Authority
15. **Sunyu Wang** - High School Student
16. **Chao Wu** - Vice-Chair of China Sister City Planning Committee, Columbia Association Board Member, Senior Engineer at Hillcrest Labs
17. **Frank Xu** - Community member; Associate Professor of Computer Science and Director of the Cyber Security Program at Bowie State University
18. **Jean Xu** - President, Chinese-American Parent Association of Howard County

CA Staff:

19. **Laura Smit*** - Manager, CA International Exchange & Multicultural Programs
20. **Grace Chang**, Assistant, CA International Exchange & Multicultural Programs

LIYANG (CHINA) INTEREST GROUP

Members of the ***Liyang Interest Group*** do not attend Sister City Committee meetings, but wish to be notified of events connected to creating a Chinese sister city, attending the signing ceremony, Chinese cultural activities, hosting Chinese visitors in the future, participating in youth and adult exchanges, traveling to China, etc.

Denee Barr

Paul Nolan

Mei Du

Alice Pham

Jieyao Feng

Larry Schoen

Allison Gross

Judy So

Bell Hong

Kit Strauss

Ru Huang

Ronggai Sun

Rick Jiang

Jerry Wang

Len Lazarick

Jingshan Wang

Tai Liang

Tianqi Wu

Zhilin Liao

Alice Xue

Anguo Liu

Angela Zhang

Wendy Liu

Jennifer Zhang

Yi Lu

Yuang Zhang

Jun Luo

Hao Zhou

Lucy Lu

Xi Zhou

Helen Zou

Criteria for Selecting a Sister City

Columbia Association (CA) manages Columbia's sister cities relationships. CA staff and a Sister City Planning Committee composed of volunteers from the community who are interested in that city and culture give careful and extensive consideration to each potential sister city relationship prior to creating a new sister city affiliation.

What is a sister city?

Sister Cities International defines a sister city relationship as a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. Sister city organizations promote peace through people-to-people relationships — with programs varying greatly from basic cultural exchange programs to shared research and development projects between cities with relationships.

Why does Columbia have sister cities?

Columbia has from its early beginning maintained an active interest in fostering international understanding, hosting events celebrating Columbia's diverse cultures, and connecting the people of Columbia/Howard County to the people of its sister cities through its relationships. Columbia Association is a member of Sister Cities International which "promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time." The sister cities mission is in accord with James Rouse's vision for Columbia: creating a community which is centered around people and is racially, culturally and economically integrated.

Sister city affiliations are considered in the light of these criteria:

1. Sustainability/Growth Potential

- Local leaders and community members committed to nurturing the relationship
- Genuine interest on both sides in people-to-people relationships
- Long-term commitment to the relationship
- Realistic assessment of what makes a successful sister cities relationship
- Means of maintaining and expanding relationships built upon shared demographic, economic, and/or other ties
- Ability to separate personal beliefs from political, economic and cultural realities

Criteria for Selecting a Sister City continued....

2. Government/Geography

- Stable, recognized government at national and local levels
- Small city by comparison to other cities in their country
- Similar governmental and geographic levels relative to own country
- Maintain natural environment and interest in working on “green” initiatives
- Government of proposed city is strongly interested in the relationship
- Convenient to get to by air, train and roads from capital or major city

3. Educational/Cultural/Environmental/Economic Conditions

- Experience with a variety of youth and adult exchanges with other sister cities
- Adequate financial support for exchanges and maintenance of relationship
- Established artistic and cultural environment
- Potential for mutually beneficial exchanges
- Academic institutions which could support bilateral affiliations and exchanges
- Potential for economic and business relationships on both sides
- Opportunities for tourism - cultural and environmental
- Existing connections between people in the two cities



DATE: April 6, 2018
TO: Columbia Association Board of Directors
FROM: Dan Burns, Director, Department of Sport and Fitness
SUBJECT: **Briefing on the Plans for the Athletic Club Closure**

Continuing the conversation begun on March 22, 2018, additional information will be provided on the plans for the Athletic Club Closure for renovation. Questions and answers will follow the information presented.

Information may also be found on CA's website at www.columbiaassociation.org/facilities/columbia-athletic-club-upgrades/.



April 5, 2018

To: Columbia Association Board of Directors
Milton W. Matthews, President/CEO

From: Dennis Matthey, Director of Open Space & Facilities Services

cc: Susan Krabbe, Vice President & Chief Financial Officer

Subject: Neighborhood Center Strategic Plan

This memo recommends the implementation of a long term strategy to reduce the number of neighborhood centers from 14 existing neighborhood centers to 6. Several of the neighborhood centers are currently in need of, or will soon be in need of, significant capital allocations for maintenance of existing programming. Ongoing capital and operating expenditures associated with the neighborhood centers will create an additional 30 year commitment to the neighborhood center concept. Rather than simply continuing to fund the neighborhood centers status quo, staff recommends that the CA Board consider whether or not the value added from the neighborhood centers is consistent with funding requirements and if not, implement a long term strategy to reduce the number of neighborhood centers from 14 to 6.

Background:

There are 14 neighborhood centers distributed in what might best be described as an arbitrary manner across 7 of the 10 Columbia Villages. The 14 neighborhood centers range in size from 586 to 4,900 square feet and were primarily built in Columbia's early development; thus, they average 45 years old. The majority of the buildings were built to residential standards and do not meet existing building codes for ADA compliance and energy conservation. I asked Barbara Kellner, former CA archivist, to research the neighborhood center concept in the Columbia Archives and while no specific information is available, she found that Mort Hoppenfield said the following:

“A neighborhood center consists of K-5 elementary school supplemented by daycare and preschool centers, a small convenience store, a swimming pool, park and playgrounds. The neighborhood center is seen as a complementary set of facilities and services convenient to the most place bound member of an urban community.”

Anecdotally, the CA neighborhood centers were initially developed as daycare co-ops managed and staffed on a voluntary basis by immediate neighbors. Over time, the co-op daycare concept has largely given way to for-profit daycares independently operated and serving the local, as well as the larger, Howard County community. The small convenience stores have all closed, save for the Running Brook 7-11, and the K-5 elementary schools are far fewer in number than CA’s 14 neighborhood centers. The Columbia landscape has changed significantly over the last 50 years and what was cutting edge when Columbia was founded could not have imagined the internet and cell phones and video games and two wage earner families.

Recommendation:

With an average age of 45 years old, the neighborhood centers present a substantial capital and operating challenge to CA resources. It is not a question of whether or not the neighborhood centers are used, but rather whether or not the long term capital and operating expenditures add commensurate value to the Columbia community. Staff is recommending the CA Board approve a plan to take the Locust Park Neighborhood Center out of service at the end of this fiscal year and to replace the building footprint with a passive park. The same thought process would be applied to 7 of the remaining 13 neighborhood centers, ultimately leaving 6 in service. CA acknowledges that the Community Associations may derive net income from the neighborhood centers. In those cases, the reduction in net income that a Community Association derives from a neighborhood center could be offset through an increased grant from CA to the respective Community Associations, based on CA review of financial statements and lease and rental documents, a mutually agreed upon two or three year average of the net income derived, etc.

The Columbia concept to create a better and more livable city should remain constant, but the manner in which we provide services to the community should adapt to changing priorities as CA moves forward.