



## MINUTES

### CA International & Multicultural Advisory Committee (IMAC) Meeting July 10, 2018 \* 7:00-8:30 pm Vision Room (Board Room) @ CA Headquarters

**In attendance:** Bob Anantua, Sue DiPaula, Hui Dong, Marcy Gitt, Farida Guzdar, Joan Holloway, Roberto Martin, Valerie Montague (Chair), Gabriel Pomary, Carol Jo Roeder Arna Rubman

**CA Staff:** Laura Smit

**Guests:** Larry Stevens and Judy Templeton

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves, their village and their reason for being at the meeting.

#### 2. Chair's Report – Valerie Montague

Valerie reported that she, along with the other chairs of the Columbia Association (CA) Advisory Committees, was invited to meet with the CA Board on Thursday, July 12, at 7:30 pm during its work session. Each Chair will have five minutes to inform the Board of the committee's activities.

#### 3. Program Manager's Report – Laura Smit

- She reported that 11 teens are currently in France and 13 teens are in Spain. They will return to the U.S. on July 12. The French and Spanish teens will be here, living with the teens they stayed with in Europe until July 30. Laura will be hosting the French and Spanish chaperones in her home.
- The welcome party will be at the Sports Park on July 16 from 6 to 9 pm and the IMAC Committee members are invited to join in welcoming the European students.

#### 4. Approval of May 8, 2018 Minutes

- Corrections to the May 8, 2018 IMAC meeting minutes are listed below. Page 1 under Chair's Report, line 3 – The Board unanimously approved Liyang...; page 2 under Report on Explore Columbia's Sister Cities Event, line 2 - ....visitors to the China table...about China ...ie the World Languages Café (WLC); page 2 under China Sister City Planning Committee, line 15 – Kathie Martin from Howard Community College's (HCC)..., line 18 - ...Jun Han may bring...She would be seeking...; line 21 – A second trip to Liyang...may be planned for...; page 3 under Tres Cantos, delete the second sentence - She also said that culturally Spain is not open to hosting visitors in their homes, as their homes are smaller.
- The minutes were unanimously approved with the above corrections.

## **5. Review of the FY18 IMAC Report to CA Board**

- This report is a summary of the committee's accomplishments during the fiscal year, which started on May 1, 2017 and ran through April 30, 2018.
- It also lists the FY18 Charges to the Committee and how the charges were fulfilled.
- Valerie Montague noted that it is important that the subcommittee chairs convene their own meetings and take their own notes since CA staff support is limited by the small size of the staff. She also commented that the World Languages Café (WLC) is one way that CA shows the community that we care.

## **6. Africa CultureFest – Oct 14, 2018**

- The location is the Miller Library from 1:30 – 4:30 pm.
- The movie Black Panther will be used as a draw to educate people on the continent of Africa. The languages, clothing and cultures portrayed in the movie were actually taken from various African countries.
- Gabriel Pomary suggested that country tables could be grouped by region, i.e. North Africa, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa.
- Someone has already contacted Laura about providing an African food truck.
- The co-founder of the African American Art Museum Doris Ligon wants to be involved. A group from the IMAC, including Farida Guzar, Joan Holloway, Bob Anantua and Carol Jo Roeder, will go to the Museum sometime in September to get a tour and help decide what art to bring to the CultureFest.
- Roberto Martin asked if the Miller Library could prepare a resource packet of materials on African countries, to include travel books, music and movies. They have not done it in the past but Laura will ask if they can do it.
- If you know of any African performers, please let Laura know. One potential problem is they will not be paid for performing.

## **7. Reports from Sister City Subcommittees**

### **➤ Liyang, China - Hui Dong**

- The subcommittee last met on June 12 and new members were added.
- The signing of the Sister Cities Agreement is scheduled for September 20. Approximately seven people are coming, including Liyang Mayor Mr. Qinhua Xu and Liyang Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Xinpeng Xu. Their itinerary has not been finalized, but they will likely spend only a day or two here. They may go to the West Coast first before flying to Washington, D.C.
- The delegation will pay all its own costs. Since our CA delegation was treated so well in China, we want to reciprocate. Jun Han should have more details on the delegation and its plans when she returns from China.
- A middle school in Liyang would like to establish a weekly class taught remotely by a Howard County English teacher from Sept-January/February. The middle school would pay the teacher for the semester commitment. The students would be in class beginning 7:00am (China time). A subcommittee of the Liyang committee is scheduled to meet on July 30 to work towards finding a teacher.

- Jun Han may be bringing a group of students from Liyang end of September-beginning of October for 10 days. She will be seeking American host families for the middle school students. She will confirm the dates of the visit when she returns from China in July.
  - A second trip to Liyang for Columbia residents is being planned for April 2019.
  - Since the IMAC is not scheduled to meet again until late September, Marcy Gitt asked if the whole subcommittee should use the July 30 meeting to do the planning for the signing on September 20.
- **Cergy-Pontoise, France** – Carol Jo Roeder for Jean Salkeld
- The most recent meeting was held on July 6 to discuss the artist exchange.
  - Seven artists and five companions/spouses, along with Lucie Geinzer who will act as a translator, will be going to France from September 13-22. The artists are Dennis Gilbert (photographer), Deborah Maklowski (pastels), Anne Metta (potter), Debra Paper (painter), Carol Jo Roeder (painter), Mary Jo Tydlacka (painter) and Roslyn Zinner (mosaics). Dennis will also take photos of the trip.
  - No housing assignments have been made yet.
  - Laura will collect the money for the trip from the participants and wire it to France.
- **Tres Cantos, Spain** – Laura Smit for Magdalena Castro-Lewis
- Nothing to report (NTR).
- **Tema, Ghana** – Gabriel Pomary
- The committee is working hard to plan a trip to Ghana from September 16-26. Gabriel reported that five people have signed up to go, and one has already paid in full. He was coordinating with a former IMAC committee member, Ty Bolton, who now lives in North Carolina, but no one there has committed to the trip. He is now working with Grace Quartey, who has a group from York, PA that is interested in traveling to Ghana. Gabriel and Grace are working to merge their departure dates and travel plans. By the end of July, he should know the exact dates and travel arrangements.
  - There have been problems with 'Adopting the Tema Central Library' program. The Tema mayor sent a letter to the committee on June 8, requesting that the committee instead adopt the libraries at various industrial high schools. Since the Central Library is now located in the newly formed Tema West Municipality, the mayor believes he does not have jurisdiction there. But the Tema Metropolitan Assembly still has control over the Tema West Municipal Assembly, where no one is yet in charge. A library sub-committee has been formed to draft a letter in response to the mayor, saying we still want to adopt the Central Library but are willing to provide resources to the industrial schools as well.
  - Questions were sent to the librarian of the Tema Central Library, asking if the industrial schools had requested any books and the answer was No. There are still 30 boxes of books donated by CA that are not on the shelves

- of the Central Library due to lack of shelf space.
- Another book drive for middle school and high school books is being considered.

➤ **Cap-Haitien, Haiti** - Bob Anantua

- The Build Haiti Foundation (BHF) Global Leadership Program (GLP) trip, scheduled to depart on July 7, had to be cancelled due to organized protests in Haiti over the high cost of gas imposed by the government. Even though the demonstrations were mostly in Port-au-Prince, some roads were blocked. The U.S. State Department advised Americans not to travel to Haiti.
- Bob thanked everyone who had donated school and medical supplies to Haiti and hopes to take them there soon.
- An adult trip to Haiti is being planned for January 2019.
- The committee had met on June 20 to come up with ideas to get the community involved. A fundraiser cooking show and food tasting using the commercial kitchen at the Fretz Kitchen Store was proposed. The use of the kitchen is free for non-profit organizations. Greta Swanson, Vice Chair of the Cap-Haitien subcommittee, is going to follow up with Fretz in hopes of holding the event in November.

**8. Next IMAC Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for September 5, but Laura will be out of town and several members of the IMAC will be in France. The new meeting date is **September 26** at 7 pm.

**For Your Calendar: Upcoming Programs and Events**

- World Languages Cafe: July 24, Aug 28, Sep 25
- International Book Club: July 11, Aug 8, Sep 12
- Trip to Ghana, Sept 16 - 26, 2018 (dates could change)
- Africa CultureFest: Oct 14

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sue DiPaula, IMAC Secretary