

**Sister City Exploration Committee
City Hall – Conference Room 112
10 N. Division Street
Monday, January 27, 2020
11:00 A.M.**

Committee Members Present: Jacob Schacht, Comm. Chris Simmons, Pastor David Laisum, Edward Thawnghmung, Christina Vansuihnm Sawnsset and Mark Haddock

Committee Members Absent: Pastor Biak Lian Thang

Others Present: Alicia Greene, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Mr. Haddock and supported by Comm. Simmons to approve the meeting minutes of December 16, 2019. All yes, none opposed, motion passed.

Business:

Confirm Initial Purpose Statement: The Committee discussed the development of a purpose statement.

Mr. Schacht provided and the Committee discussed a handout illustrating the governmental system of Falam compared to the City of Battle Creek.

Mr. Haddock noted the importance of cultural exchanges to create connections and develop understanding.

Consider Community Meeting Strategy:

The Committee discussed key community stakeholders for future outreach.

Consider approach:

The Committee discussed community outreach and cultural exchanges.

Mr. Schacht noted the need for community and City Commission support to move forward.

Mr. Schacht provided a handout and discussed with the committee the goals of a Sister City relationship.

The Committee discussed resurrecting the International Relations Committee.

Mr. Schacht noted BCU had previously funded the Takasaki exchange, however this funding has been cut and additional sources will need to be used in the future.

The Committee decided to meet on the third Monday of each month at 11:00 A.M.

Public Comment: Members of the public thanked the Committee for supporting the Chin community.

Board Comments: Comm. Simmons noted the City Commission has sent a letter to the U.S. State Department, in support of offering refugee settlement in the Battle Creek community. Comm. Simmons also noted the opportunity of additional committee members, and suggested the Committee hold a future meeting at the Burma Center.

Mr. Schacht would welcome additional folks to participate in these meetings, with a maximum of 15 members.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020 at 11:00, City Hall, room 302A.

Adjournment: Mr. Schacht adjourned the meeting at 12:17 P.M.