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The Naperville Sister Cities Commission discussed in the November 15th meeting 3 options to present to the City Council.

Option 1:

A Naperville City Commission remains and continues a partnership a Foundation

Benefits

There are several benefits to the present setup; the City has Direct Authority, Public Forum, Direct governmental relationships with foreign Sister City Governments, present agreements with current Sister Cities would not need to be renegotiated and the City of Naperville is directly recognized for its Cultural Inclusivity which brings people to Naperville and increases its economics.

Improvements

The Commission would ask for establishment of continued feedback from City Council on directions for the future as this has not been present. The Commission wants to continue its work to connect with other foreign Cities in representation of Naperville's cultural population in China, India and Ireland. The exploration of connecting Naperville Businesses with our Sister Cities to feed economic advantages. The recognition of Naperville as a leader in Cultural interaction for education, economics and activities. The updated Commission meeting structure is a welcome addition to maintaining our compliance to OMA and public interactions.

The Sister Cities Foundation has been the fund raising and event organizer for the Commission. The benefit of this relationship has been recently seen in the establishment of the Hispanic Festival. The Commission saw the advantage to incorporating a public festival to celebrate the addition of Cancun and recognize Hispanic culture and the results have been fantastic as this has brought positive press, education, recognition and economic benefits to Naperville. The Commission cannot fund raise or organize an event, but this relationship allows the Commission to develop ideas and pass to the Foundation for action.

This option has proven results and with the guidance of the City Council, adherence to the principles and boundaries of the Commission and Foundation keeping and improving the Commission will continue to benefit Naperville.

Option 2:

A Naperville Sister Cities Task Force

The organization of the Task Force established by the City of Naperville was discussed. This would be one organization that could be established to take on the responsibilities of the current Commission and Foundation setup. This option still has several questions with regards to the legalities of transferring current agreements with our Sister Cities to a new organization and we have asked the City of Naperville Legal to investigate, as of this time we have not received any comments.

The benefits are one organization, ability to fund raise and no compliance to OMA. City Staff and Council Member could attend the meetings to represent Naperville's interests.

The detractors are the rebuilding time. Naperville does not have the ability to appoint members and legal establishment of agreements with international Sister Cities. There are still investigations needed to establish if a Task Force can fund raise, the Cities responsibility for establishing a Task Force, if there is a residency requirement and who would head this new setup, recruit members and establish a new Charter.

Option 3:

Dissolve the Commission and ask the Naperville Sister Cities Foundation to take on all responsibilities

Benefits

The Foundation is established and has been a valuable asset to the Commission with the establishment of the Naperville Hispanic Festival.

Detractors

The Foundation would have to be re-established to take on the responsibilities of the Commission and there are legal questions on if current Naperville Sister Cities agreements could be transferred to a 501C3. There has not been a response from Naperville City Legal if this transfer could be completed without dissolving and re-establishing new agreements. The Foundation said it is not able to pay expenses for legal fees.

Conclusion from the Naperville Sister Cities Commission

The Commission has brought about positive recognition and economic impact to the City of Naperville. The Commission asks that the Council allow 6 months for the Commission to work on the Improvements listed in Option 1 and ask for a continued dialog with the Council to improve synergy and insure we follow a path that brings the City of Naperville continued Cultural activities, recognition and economic benefits.