

# City of Naperville

*400 S. Eagle Street  
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<http://www.naperville.il.us/>*



## Naperville

### **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**

**6:30 PM**

**Special Joint Meeting with Sister Cities Foundation**

**Meeting Room C**

**Sister Cities Commission**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no speakers.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Arun Mani called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL:**

Others Present:

Foundation Members Present: Patty Gustin, Kent Mercado, Maria Rodriguez DiGioia, Lilia Iepure, Allan Lowe, Tina Cui, Maya Meschi, and Toy Nghiem

Staff Present: Marcie Schatz, Assistant to the City Manager and Rachel Pruneda, Assistant to Mayor & Council

Students Representatives: Present: Parker Chen Absent: Cameron Barrett

**Present** 7 - Becky Rudolph, Yugin Wang, Abdechafi Boubkir, Joel See , Chairperson Arun Mani, Tony Chamberlain, and Ashfaq Syed

**Absent** 2 - Daniel Bukowski, and Ganesh Kar

**C. PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were no speakers.

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

**E. REPORTS:**

1. Introductions: Sister Cities Commissioners and Sister Cities Foundation Members

Members of the Foundation and Commission introduced themselves to the group.

2. Discussion and overview of a commissioner’s recent visit to Nitra, Slovakia

Commissioner Chamberlain read the report as presented as part of the agenda.

A discussion followed on how it would be best to engage with Nitra on future exchanges. The team liked the idea of holding virtual classes.

Commissioner Chamberlain also noted that they are reaching out to schools about a future exchange program. More information to follow.

3. Review and discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Naperville Sister Cities Commission and Sister Cities Foundation

Marcie Schatz led the conversation about Roles and Responsibilities looking for

feedback or any points of clarification. It was decided that this item will be TABLED to the next meeting to allow for the Foundation to provide some feedback.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Abdechafi, seconded by Chamberlain to TABLE this item until the next meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**4. Foundation Update: Sister Cities Festival Update**

Patty Gustin, Chair for the Sister Cities Foundation announced that the International Festival is a new event this year. The event is scheduled for September 12, 2006 in Central Park. The event starts at noon and this year a variety of new artists, entertainment, and foods will be introduced that represent different cultures and backgrounds.

Councilman Syed would like to see the event promoted by sharing the event through social media, event marketing and flyers.

**No action taken.**

**5. Receive an update on the Monarch Butterfly Garden project and discuss any outstanding issues**

Commissioner See provided a brief update on the Monarch Butterfly project. Commissioners discussed maintenances, plantings, signage and sustainability.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wang, seconded by Commissioner Boubkir to accept the report as presented by Dr. See. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**6. Discuss Sister Cities Commission & Sister Cities Foundation Local YAAS Art Competition and define roles and responsibilities**

Tina Cui, a former Sister City Commissioner and current Foundation member reported that Naperville participated in the art showcase for 3 years, 2017, 2018 and 2019. There are several categories, but we only participated in Classical Art. We discussed roles and responsibilities around moving forward with the art competition, marketing, outreach, recognition of students and holding a reception.

**A motion was made by Chamberlain, seconded by Rudolph to move forward with the art competition with the instruction provided in the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**7. Discussion and Planning of Future Activities (2027-2028)**

The Commission discussed a proposed process for reviewing future Sister Cities initiatives, including project scope, mission alignment, timeline, funding, risk, and viability considerations. Members emphasized the importance of early

coordination with the Foundation and evaluating project feasibility. The Commission approved the proposed process, including the addition of viability as an evaluation criteria.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Boubkir, seconded by Commissioner Chamberlain to approve the proposed process, including the addition of viability as an evaluation criterion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- 8. Approve the Sister Cities Commission meeting minutes of December 3, 2025

**Motion was made by Commissioner Chamberlain, seconded by Commissioner Wang to approve the Sister Cities Commission meeting minutes of December 3, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote.**

- 9. Discuss and approve the Sister Cities Commission 2025 Annual Report

There was a discussion by the Foundation and Commission on the upcoming art contest.

**A motion was made by Commissioner See, seconded by Commissioner Boubkir to approve the 2025 Annual Report as presented. Motion passed by voice vote. This Report was approved.**

**F. NEW BUSINESS:**

Dr. See proposed a process for selecting Naperville's new Sister City.

No action taken.

Brookdale Event:

**G. ADJOURNMENT:**