

Friends of Danang
December 11, 2008
Home of Thanh Armagost

MINUTES

1. Welcome to Guests:

Due to frightful weather, eleven members were in attendance. Thank you to Thanh and her family for their gracious hospitality!

2. Individual reflections

Individual reflections

3. Financial Report:

There was a reported balance of \$4,873.76 in the administrative checking account as of November 30, 2008, of which \$4,215 is restricted for Roger's book fund. At our November meeting, \$185 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund, which is now at \$7,783.00.

A complete report is enclosed.

4. Spaghetti Dinner:

As of this date, we have not been told the outcome of the Spaghetti Dinner.

5. Veteran's Day Breakfast:

The total income for the Veteran's Day Breakfast totaled \$29,995. As of the day of this meeting, there was still \$1750 in outstanding money not yet received. Our expenses totaled \$10,792.38. **That leaves us with a profit of \$19,202.62!** Please refer to the **enclosed complete report** for all of the details. That is slightly more than a \$4000 increase over last year's breakfast.

The following are some random comments regarding the breakfast:

- Should we consider hiring an event planner?
- Should we keep the target group at 500 but raise the price to \$40/each?
- We could charge \$350 per table if they show and \$300 if they don't show.
- People who want to be there will pay more.
- We should keep to a time frame.

- More than 500 in attendance is beyond the capacity of the room, and may be unmanageable.

6. Jewelry Show and Vietnamese Luncheon:

The Jewelry Show and Vietnamese Luncheon held on November 16th appeared to be very successful. We haven't received any word of the outcome of the jewelry show, but there is a complete report regarding the income and expenses of the Vietnamese luncheon. Thank you to Thanh and her family for all of their hard work and fabulous cooking!

7. Pittsburgh-Danang Sisters City:

On December 2, 2008, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and Nguyen Tien Minh from the Vietnam Embassy met, signed documents, and shook hands on the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Pittsburgh and the City of Danang. A picture with a caption is enclosed. Thanh, Tony, George, Jim Wolf, and Tom Fallon were in attendance. We need to give credit to the office of Doug Shields (Council President). Those who attended reported that it was an incredible ceremony. Our Vietnamese guests were very comfortable and the ceremony will be duplicated in Danang. Tom Fallon suggested that the Memorandum of Understanding should be displayed at Enrico's.

The Sister City relationship firms up what we have already been doing. We do not have any additional responsibilities, but may be we can move more on economic development. Now we fall under the umbrella of a 501C3 if needed. The publicity from the Friends of Danang will boost participation of the Vietnamese community in the Asian Festival in the city, which is now moving to South Side Works. There was a motion and the motion was seconded for the Friends of Danang to participate in the Festival.

8. Open Discussion

- The Barnes and Nobles branch at Duquesne University has offered to sell Roger's book at no charge.
- It was suggested that Roger put his book on EBay.
- We could present Roger's book as a travelogue and present it to book stores.
- The book is on Noreen's blog.
- It was suggested that we take Roger's book to Duquesne University and talk about our group and projects, serve food, center it around a big date, tie it in with the history department or International Studies.
- We need to complete our \$5000 commitment to Vietnam Children's Fund by January 2010.

9. Next meeting:

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 8, 2009 at 7:00 at Enrico Biscotti Company.

Enclosures:

There are lots of enclosures this time. They included;

- The Financial Report
- 2008 Veteran's Day Report
- 2008 Vietnamese Luncheon Report
- Brian O'Neill article in the Post Gazette featuring the FOD
- Photo and caption for the Pittsburgh-Danang Sister City signing
- Thomas Buell article in the Winter 2009 edition of the *Pittsburgh Quarterly*

Respectfully submitted,

Deb

*At this time I would like to wish everyone a
Happy New Year!! It is truly my honor to know and work with
each and every one of you!!*