

**Friends of Danang**  
February 14, 2008  
Homeless Children's Fund Office.  
Strip District

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome to Guests:**

Eleanor Zerega, Pete's wife

**2. Silent Reflection:** individual reflections

**3. Financial Report:**

There was a reported balance of \$6,680.23 in the administrative checking account as of January 31, 2008. At the January meeting \$157 was collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund.

During the month of January, \$275 was collected for the Roger Costello Book Fund.

Our goal to build the Hoi Yen Bridge was \$55,000 and we submitted that amount to the East Meets West Foundation. **A complete report is enclosed.**

An updated 2007 Veteran's Day Breakfast Income and Expenses Report is also included. The net profit is \$15,189.02! **A complete report is enclosed.**

**4. Veteran's Day Breakfast:**

Tony spoke to the representative and the caterer at the Marriott for the 11/08 VDB. We are locked in. We have much to do before the breakfast. Mailings for program ads should be the focus for the summer months and mailings for the tables should be the focus of September and October.

T.J. organized all of our mailing lists from 2004-2007. This will enable us to get mailings to previous breakfast attendees.

**A complete report is enclosed.**

**5. Spaghetti Dinner:**

Tony went to the Bethel Park Rotary to thank them for the \$5700 check. Rotary wants us to partner with them again for the next Spaghetti Dinner in October. We agreed to give the \$350 gift certificate.

**6. Website Development:**

Ed has been working on the website. Please visit [www.friendsofdanang.org](http://www.friendsofdanang.org) to check it out. Ed is constantly updating the website.

**7. Trip to Vietnam 2008:**

While on the trip, the FOD will find out what needs are paramount in the Danang area.

Thanh called while we were at the meeting. She reported that she met with the Director of the Foreign Affairs and they are fine with our agenda. Also, dates and times are good with World Vision and the director of Hoa Son School. Everything is set for our visit.

The bridge is nearly done and the villagers are very happy. Some have given up property by the bridge to make completion possible. Others have talked about setting up businesses near the bridge.

At this time, they are not sure how many Vietnamese veterans will be at the dedication but Foreign Affairs assured Thanh that representatives will be in attendance.

Thanh did say that the one thing that villagers really need are light weight jackets. Since the last meeting, many members have been collecting jackets, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and other essentials.

**Thanh will be sending a message on how to get these items ready for the trip.**

Eleanor Zerega offered to check with Target about donations. Tom Micklovic is getting balloons for the children, and Tony is ordering flag pins.

Tony showed a print of the Pittsburgh bridges to give to the Foreign Affairs Department. The thoughts were that this is symbolic in that this seems to “bridge” the gap between the sister cities of Pittsburgh and Danang.

**8. Future Projects:**

Several possible projects were mentioned: water projects, addressing medical needs, schools. There is a hope to set up a Rotary club in Danang.

**9. Vietnamese Dinner:**

The Vietnamese Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 1, 2008 at the Bethel Park Community Center from 4:00-7:00 pm. Tickets will sell for \$25 for adults. Menu will be very much like last year including coconut shrimp, pho soup, rice, salad, egg rolls, and more. More info to follow.

**10. Open Discussion:**

George Burk's book "The Bridge Never Crossed" is for sale for \$20. If you are interested, contact George D'Angelo. Dick Hughes has offered to get more "Passage to Vietnam" books for us. Tony will check on the cost of the freight.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, March 13, 2008** at Enrico Biscotti Co. at 7:00 pm.

See you there.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb

**A special *thank you* to Joe Lagana for graciously allowing us to use the Homeless Children's Fund office for this meeting.**

