

Friends of Danang
March 12, 2009
Enrico Biscotti Company

MINUTES

1. Welcome to Guests:

Kurt Torell, Chief Academic Officer at Penn State Greater Allegheny;
Roger Cranville, Senior VP of Global Marketing at Pittsburgh
Regional Alliance;
Manomi and Helene, foreign exchange students with Cindy Bahn;
Six members of the MOAA (Military Officers Association of
America).

2. Individual reflections

Individual reflections

3. Financial Report:

There was a reported balance of \$6,013.54 in the administrative
checking account as of February 28, 2000, of which \$4,415 is
restricted for Roger's book fund. At our February meeting, \$220 was
collected for the Larry Lagattuta Fund, which is now at \$8,253.

A complete report is enclosed.

4. Spaghetti Dinner:

Last month Rotary of Bethel Park gave the FOD a check for \$1419.50
which represents the raffle and dinner tickets we sold. When we
subtract our donation of \$250 for the Best Buy gift card, our profit is
\$1169.50.

5. Veteran's Day Breakfast:

The following items were discussed at the meeting regarding the VDB:

- Dan Pultz asked Maj. Gen. Tom Jones to be a speaker at the VDB. General Jones accepted the invitation. We are aware that General Jones is able to speak freely on wide range of topics of which we can have some input.
- Dan will ask General Jones for a "write up" that we can put on the back of the ticket and in the ad.

- There was some discussion as whether we should put out a “save a date”, a publicity ad, or ask Brian O’Neill to write a column.

6. Jewelry Show and Vietnamese Luncheon:

It was the consensus that we should do the jewelry show and the Vietnamese luncheon together again next year. We had much positive feedback about the two events being paired together. The jewelry show yielded a \$1904.44 profit. From the Vietnamese luncheon there was a total profit of \$1745. The total profit for the day came to \$3,649.44. A complete report is enclosed.

7. Vietnamese Dinner:

Our annual Vietnamese Dinner will be held on Sunday April 26 from 3:00-6:30 at the Bethel Park Community Center. Tickets and flyers are available. If you need tickets, please call Mary Lou at 412-481-6133. A flyer with more details is also included.

8. Wells and Fresh Drinking Water:

Tony contacted Laura Ward of East Meets West. Their proposal does not meet our desires and needs at this time.

9. FOD and Future Relationship with the Vietnam Children’s Fund:

The following thoughts were expressed and discussed at the meeting:

- Can we join VCF and still keep our own identity?
- What do we want if we partner with VCF?
- Cindy Bahn explained some legal aspects that we should take into consideration. These include: an unincorporated organization can not get liability insurance on their own; and tax liability.
- Would VCF charge us an administrative fee?
- What happens if VCF changes their mission? They would also have to file that change with the IRS.
- The plus side is that they would deposit checks and give us a financial report.
- Is VCF registered in PA to accept charitable donations?
- Tony will send the documents provided by Cindy to VCF as a part of our concerns and questions. A couple of that form is enclosed.

10. Pittsburgh-Danang Sister City:

The Pittsburgh-Sister City relationship was consummated in Danang on February 18, 2009. Tom Fallon helped with protocol issues on the Pittsburgh end.

Kurt Torell and Roger Cranville went to Vietnam recently with Jim Wolf. Kurt is the coordinator of international education at Penn State Greater Allegheny which is an outgrowth of service learning and community service projects in conjunction with the curriculum. He has been involved in an initiative in Tanzania to empower women through higher education opportunities. In this respect, he thought the FOD would be a good fit as a partner. Maybe we could exchange students at commensurate levels.

Roger and Claire Cranville also traveled to Vietnam. He reported that the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance was focused on several things. These included opportunities to provide information to businesses that may do business in Vietnam and to bring international business back to Pittsburgh. The Vietnamese wants to be connected to people in the United States. They are hungry to build the infrastructure in Vietnam and want to go to college to learn about government and business systems. They had meetings with individuals and representatives from businesses and universities. Roger reported that Vietnam is having a 6% economic growth rate. Jim Wolf reported that the previous ambassador to the US was quick to offer support. Danang was an actively engaged with all of the people in the delegation; business people ready and eager to talk about doing business in Pittsburgh; they hope to find ways to engage Kurt in the educational aspect.

Tom Fallon reported that FOD is technically under the 501(C) 3 of the Greater Pittsburgh –Danang Sister City relationship. As a group, we do more than any other sister city in their charter. We may need to be incorporated to cover all of our activities. We are our own entity and can write Sister-City on our letterhead.

11. Open Discussion:

- May is Asian American month. The Dragon Boat Race will be held on May 16th. FOD can set up a tent.
- Nick Dubos has arranged to have a book signing at the Barnes and Nobles at Duquesne University on April 15, 2009 from 3:00-6:00.

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 8, 2009 at 7:00 at Enrico Biscotti Company at 2022 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh 15222 in the Strip District

Enclosures:

- Veteran's Day Breakfast Report
- Financial Report
- Breakdown of income and expenses for the Spaghetti Dinner, Jewelry show, and Vietnamese luncheon.
- 2008 Out of pocket administrative expenses.
- Merger considerations

Respectfully submitted,

Deb