



# PHOENIX Sister Cities

Discovery Changes Everything.

## CHENGDU COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2017

Siu Wok Chinese Buffet

2801 North Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85004

### Committee Members & Public Present:

Zach Baker

Natalya Brown

Cheryl Chen

Huacong (Hua) Chen

Zhigang Chen

Luis Diaz

Ping Fang

Dianna Noli Hill

Xiangbo (Bill) Li

Mirna Martinez

Jessica Perez

Alec Wiggin

Decker Williams

Linda Xiao

Allan Yang

### Staff Present:

Rick Gerrard

### Item 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Dianna Noli Hill called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

### Item 2. Welcome & Introduction of Members & Guests

All attendees were introduced including guests; Jessica Perez, a GCC journalism student and Xiangbo (Bill) Li who recently moved to Phoenix from Lafayette, Louisiana. Bill is originally from China.

### Item 3. Approval of October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Huacong Chen motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Allan Yang Chen seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### Item 4. Recap PSC WorldFest @ AZ State Fair Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

The objective of our participation in the "WorldFest" was to promote public awareness of PSC. A *Passport* handout was designed and given to children to encourage them to visit each of the sister cities booths. Upon completion each received a world globe keychain. Each committee created a basket of representative items of their sister city for drawing prizes. The Chengdu Committee organized a performance stage program which included musicians from the Contemporary Chinese School of Arizona (CCSA); Mr. Zhigang Chen who performed his ancient face-changing act, students from Chandler performed traditional Chinese dance; and musicians/dancers from the Ballet folkloric performing traditional Mexican dances. Huacong Chen did a great job as Master of Ceremonies for the program. Many thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard on this event.

### Item 5. 2017 Nov/Dec Lights of World Festival @ AZ State Fair

Dr. Song Yang from Lights of the World has graciously agreed to donate a rebate to PSC for tickets sold through PSC using a designated code for each sister city. Zhigang Chen is coordinating the volunteer effort with Dr. Song to take the Lights of the World installers (engineers/technicians) on a shopping excursion before leaving for China.

#### **Item 6. "Skate it Forward" @ CitySkate Holiday Ice Rink Dec 13<sup>th</sup>**

Each year CityScape opens up an ice skating rink on Central Ave during the holiday season. CitySkate helps a different non-profit organization raise funds every Wednesday as part of their "Skate It Forward" program. CitySkate, located at 1 East Washington, has dedicated Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> to PSC from 3 pm to 10 pm. \$5 from every walk-up ticket sale will go to PSC. The Chengdu Committee will have a booth to sell toy pandas and other items from Chengdu. Huacong Chen will send out a notice for volunteers through SignUpGenius.

#### **Item 7. Chengdu Student HS Symphony Band Delegation Feb 2018**

Rick Gerrard and Allan Yang have developed plans to facilitate a 50-position high school symphony orchestra from Chengdu scheduled for arrival in Phoenix during Chinese Week 2018. Collaboration on joint concerts are in the works with Mountain Pointe High School and the MIM.

**Item 8. Chinese Cultural & Cuisine Festival Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>** - The Chengdu Committee will staff a booth at the Chinese Week festivities at Margaret T. Hance Park from Friday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> through Sunday Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> to sell toy pandas and other items from Chengdu.

#### **Item 9. Chengdu Subcommittee Reports**

**Item 7. Art & Culture** - Mr. Zhigang Chen initiated discussion on hosting a performance group in Fall 2018, such as the Chengdu Symphony Orchestra and a guest conductor. Rick Gerrard explained the group must cover their own expenses for travel and lodging. The Committee would be responsible for selecting a venue and selling tickets to cover the cost of the venue. Suggestions included the Orpheum Theater, and the Phoenix Symphony Hall. The budget for this effort must be prepared and approved by the Board of Directors. PSC would be required to send a Letter of Invitation to Chengdu. A separate meeting will be scheduled after the holidays to determine the best course of action.

A. **Project Budget Coordinator** – Tabled

B. **Business** - Tabled.

C. **Membership** - Tabled.

D. **Public Relations** - Tabled.

E. **Youth & Education** - Tabled.

**Item 10. DAC Disabilities Awareness Committee** – A submittal by a Chengdu artist won 1<sup>st</sup> Place with a prize of \$500 in the International Competition for Artists with Disabilities on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Item 11. Upcoming Phoenix Sister Cities Events/Projects**

A. American Legion Banquet Honoring Veterans Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at Great Wall

B. 22<sup>nd</sup> Arizona Asian Festival Dec 2-3<sup>rd</sup>

C. Lights of World – AZ State Fair through Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>

D. Holiday Teddy Bear Book Event through Dec 31<sup>st</sup>

**Item 12. FY18/19 Events, Activities, & Budgets** - Rick Gerrard reported the submittal deadline for FY2019 programs is March 15, 2018.

**Item 12. Call to Public** – A. 2017 Chengdu youth ambassador Marcus Wolf has setup a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds to attend the Global Peace Conference sponsored by the Youth Parliament Nepal. The conference will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in January 2018.

B. Zach Baker, one of our most dedicated Committee members has been selected for the Teach Abroad Program in Himeji, Japan. Zach will be leaving in January for a one-year teaching assignment.

#### **Item 13. Adjournment**

Allan Yang motioned to adjourn; Huacong Chen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.