

CHAPTER 20A

SALEM SISTER CITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

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20A.010. Salem Sister City Advisory Commission. The Salem Sister City Advisory Commission is hereby created. The purpose of the commission is to act as an advisory body to the council; to enhance communications and activities between the City of Salem and its sister cities; to implement the goals and objectives of the sister city program; monitor the programs and activities undertaken by sister city organizations in Salem; and to advise the council on the establishment of new sister city relationships. The commission shall have the powers and duties hereinafter set forth. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services. (Ord No. 129-66; Ord No. 51-86; Ord No. 10-93; Ord No. 51-96)

20A.020. Organization of Commission.

(a) The commission shall consist of the mayor as honorary chairperson; two representatives from each active sister city organization; and two at-large members.

(b) The term of office shall be three years with no member serving more than two consecutive full terms. Any vacancy in said commission shall be filled by appointment made by the mayor for the unexpired portion of the term.

(c) The commission shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson who shall hold office at the pleasure of the commission.

(d) The commission may make, establish, and alter by-laws for its government and procedure consistent with the laws of the State of Oregon and with the Charter and ordinances of the City of Salem. (Ord No. 129-66; Ord No. 51-86)

20A.030. General Powers and Duties of the Commission. The commission shall be advisory to the Council and shall have powers and duties as follows:

(a) Review the activities and programs of all sister city organizations recognized by the Council in order to ensure that such are in keeping with the purposes and goals of the sister city international program and that the organization maintains substantial long-term, broad-based community interest in maintaining the relationship.

(b) Review and advise the Council on all requests from organizations desiring to establish a sister city relationship. (Ord No. 129-66; Ord No. 51-86)

20A.040. Initiation of the Establishment of Sister City Relationship.

(a) The establishment of a sister city relationship shall be initiated by petition of any citizens' group advocating such affiliation and demonstrating that there is a broad based interest in establishing such a relationship. In conjunction there with the citizens' group shall:

(1) Form a nonprofit organization under Oregon law and show that they are prepared to undertake the financial and general support requirements necessary to properly administer such a relationship.

(2) Present a plan of action for the first year of such relationship that demonstrates the ability to respond in a timely and correct manner to overtures from the sister city and to work with the mayor's office, commission, and other community organizations in furthering such relationship.

(3) Have a broad base of community membership with membership open to any interested individual.

(b) The petition shall be filed with the commission and shall contain documentation satisfying the criteria set forth in 20A.050 and any additional information supporting the proposal.

(c) The commission shall review the petition and the citizens' group which has filed said petition. The commission shall, in due course, advise the council if the specified criteria have been met and whether or not the commission recommends the establishment of the new sister city relationship. (Ord No. 51-86; Ord No. 51-96)

20A.050. Criteria for Establishing a Sister City Relationship. In reviewing requests from recognized sister city organizations to establish a sister city relationship the commission shall be guided by the following criteria:

(a) The sister city relationship will serve one or more of the following objectives:

(1) education of our citizens;

(2) enhancement of our citizens' cultural awareness and sensitivities; and

(3) development of international trade and tourism.

(b) The city chosen to affiliate with the City of Salem must be located in a country that has established diplomatic relations with the United States.

(c) There shall be only one sister city per country.

(d) The City of Salem and the proposed sister city should be of similar size and role, either absolutely or in relation to their regions.

(e) The City of Salem should have cultural, educational, economic, governmental, and social interests in common with the proposed sister city. (Ord No. 51-86)

20A.060. Action by Council.

(a) The council shall consider the proposal and recommendations from the commission for the establishment of a sister city relationship and shall by resolution approve or deny the proposal.

(b) If the proposed sister city relationship is approved the Council shall recognize the citizens' group presenting the petition as the official sister city organization for the city so named.

(c) The mayor shall appoint the first board of directors for the sister city organization. Subsequent appointments to the board shall be by the organization in accordance with their rules or bylaws. A current list of board members shall be placed on file at all times with the mayor's office. (Ord No. 51-86; Ord No. 51-96)

20A.070. Sister City Organization's Annual Plan.

(a) To facilitate the commission's review of the activities and programs of officially recognized sister city organizations, there shall be filed by said organizations with the commission an annual plan. The plan shall describe the proposed services and activities generally of the organization and shall explain in detail those services or activities for which city assistance is requested. The organization may change its plan from time to time and may conduct additional activities that are not in the plan.

(b) An annual plan may include any of the following types of services or activities:

(1) Representing the City of Salem as a community at public events and celebrations in the affiliated city, such as parades, festivals, trade shows or exhibitions, and in official ceremonies;

(2) Presenting exchanges with residents or officials of the affiliated city in order to further public understanding or mutual goodwill, including civil, art, cultural, educational, or athletic exchanges; reciprocal trade missions; or commemorative projects in parks and public places; and mutual visitations and tourist promotions.

(3) Building knowledge and better understanding of the affiliated city among Salem residents through exhibitions from the affiliated city (e.g., displaying books, photographs, or art objects; or showing films), shows or lectures, or in direct communications;

(4) Encouraging people-to-people contacts with the affiliated city by fostering "pen pal" relationships in schools; student and teacher exchange programs; correspondence between residents of the respective cities and amateur ("ham") radio communications; arranging home hospitality for visitors from the affiliated city and exchanges between Chambers of Commerce and community organizations with their counterparts in the two cities;

(5) Sharing knowledge; coordinating the exchange and dissemination of business information; establishing educational linkages; maintaining and strengthening cultural and ethnic ties; and cooperating on issues of mutual or global concern; and

(6) Promotion programs aimed at improving international relationships with emphasis on the affiliated city. (Ord No. 51-86)

(CHAPTER 20B RESERVED FOR EXPANSION)