

Meeting Minutes of UNAWCT and Westport International Visitors Committee

6:30 – 8pm on Monday June 17, 2019 at Town Hall room 201 (re-scheduled from 6.5.19)

Attending: Alex Anvari, Bill and Joan Hass, Arline Gertzoff, Marge and Bernie Niewenuis, Barbara Jay, Michaela McColl, Andrea Dostal, Joan Hass, Aye Aye Thant, Derrick Dimarche, Richard Glica, Melinda McMillen & Darwin, Sydney Hines, Taisha Hines and recording secretary Dave Lowrie

A. Summation of UNA Global Summit

Washington DC June 9 - 11, 2019 UNASWCT and UNA chapters from across the USA, advocated for the ideals and programs of the UN. Senator Richard Blumenthal attended the meeting with UNA-CT and UNASWCT. Joan and Bill Hass will provide more details at July 2nd meeting. Sae Kaleskar also represented UNASWCT.

B. Final planning for JUNE Day, Saturday June 29

Currently 160 UN guests representing 29 nations have registered on Eventbrite which is working flawlessly after very reasonable setup effort. Michaela noted the 25% commission on event ticket sales. Alex described why potential savings were small under any alternative previously discussed. Additional required bandwidth wasn't available in any case to save the \$1 per ticket fee or to handle all payments with cash and check and paypal. Arline suggested raising 2020 ticket prices to offset administration (ticketing) costs.

Michaela Updates:

- Emailed past attendees to encourage pre-registrations
- The Wakeman town farm in Westport is a new visitor destination this year
- Paddle-boarding was added to the program at the May 22nd meeting so Alex provided an update on progress toward the requirements of making this new activity a success. Within first 120 registrants 36 signed up for paddling so the option was turned off to more registrants. Five more boats were approved to accommodate the strong interest in paddling and the budget for the activity increased to \$500 for 10 boats.
- 15 attendees had pre-registered for tennis at Longshore
- Bill Hass asked UNASWCT to consider subsidizing golf course fees of \$31 per golfer plus \$17 for cart rental.
- 350 logo baseball caps were ordered and expected a week ahead of event date
- Food costs and donations were estimated to feed 300 attendees but may go up if we top-out at 325 persons
- Barbara will investigate how much the UN contributed for jUNE Day in 2018.
- Arline ran down the list of food donors, highlighting pick-up days/times and those responsible for driving.
- Andrea provided confirmation of other volunteers and their duties.

C. Recognitions

Sydney Hines rising 10th grader at Greenwich High School was acknowledged for attending the Leadership event at U.N. General Assembly February 2019. Marge mentioned she and Goldie would like to invite the director of the Bridgeport student group to be more involved with UNASWCT events.

The Staples H.S. Tuition Grant was awarded to two recipients, who confirmed their grants and sent thank-you's. Taylor Barr led the Staples Model UN team and will attend George Washington University majoring in political science. Case Viedler will attend the University of Delaware.

Bill and Alex acknowledged CT's U.S. Representative Jim Hines who personally voiced his floor-vote opposition to any proposed cuts in UNICEF and U.N. Women's Programs initiated by the White House. Bill added that Rep. Hines said his colleagues in the House of Representatives supports full funding for these programs.

D. Upcoming Calendar events for 2019

Alex described "the WORLD and US" a new Westport Library adult discussion group meeting monthly on third Wednesday's from 10 - 11:30am. The group will select articles from The New Yorker, Bloomberg Business Week and Mother Jones, related to U.S. relationships with the world's people's countries and organizations on issues of economy, technology, regulation, politics, society and environment.

Visit <http://westportlibrary.org/events/world-us>

Join <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!/the-world-and-us>

to receive the list of, and links to, selected articles via email.

An upcoming forum entitled "Cooperation in Space" with Stamford's Ferguson Library as co-sponsor is proposed for mid-July or early August, with speaker TBD.

Upcoming dates:

Saturday, September 21: 2019 International Day of Peace

Thursday October 24: 2019 United Nations Day

- highlighting local town flag-raising. Keynote speaker TBD.

Thursday November 28: Thanksgiving Hospitality Day

- Joan and Barbara to lead host recruitment efforts

December 10: 2019 Human Rights Day

E. "BIG IDEAS" for future events, promotions, etc.

Top proposal, direct from the United Nations, is for UNASWCT to host the 2020 'Inter-Agency Games,' an annual international sporting event that draws about 1000 UN employee athletes. Alex explained our committee would NOT have to run or officiate any events, they would be handled by a professional sports organizer. UNASWCT would serve as hospitality hosts, and possibly assist with lodging, dining, transportation, logistics. Proximity to Metro-North is important as is housing.

Marge proposed hosting "Beach Receptions" to invite potential committee members in a "meet-and-greet" format, showcasing UNASWCT highlights, perhaps via a PowerPoint presentation. The "marina cabana" at Compo Beach was mentioned as likely venue. Thursday September 19 was proposed as favorable date, and Marge will write-up a "one-sheet" for review.

Joan proposed that UNASWCT investigate the possibility of encouraging Westport's RTM to either pass a resolution or ordinance supporting the principles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Arline agreed to assist Joan with an initial look at CEDAW.

Alex described event proposals in the "always up to date" events committee document link that is contained in all monthly meeting calendar invitations.

Derick DeMarche made a motion to approve April meeting minutes, and Michaela seconded. Arline moved to approve May meeting minutes and Sydney seconded. Both motions passed unanimously.

The July committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday July 2 at 6:30pm at Westport Town Hall, room 201.

The June meeting concluded at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Dave Lowrie 7.1.19 edited by Alex Anvari

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