



Rochester Hills

Minutes - Draft

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Sister City Committee/Rochester

Rochester Hills: David Blair, Theresa Mungoli and David Walker
Rochester: Mark Albrecht, Doug Gould, Marilyn Trent

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

5:00 PM

1000 Rochester Hills Drive

CALL TO ORDER

Member Mungoli called the Sister City Committee/Rochester meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Mark Albrecht, David Blair, Doug Gould, Theresa Mungoli, David Walker and Marilyn Trent

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Albrecht, seconded by Blair, that the Agenda be Approved as Presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 6 - Albrecht, Blair, Gould, Mungoli, Walker and Trent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2023-0160 Approval of Minutes - Sister City Committee/Rochester - February 7, 2023

Attachments: [02072023 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)
[Resolution \(Draft\).pdf](#)

A motion was made by Blair, seconded by Gould, that the Minutes of the Sister City Committee/Rochester Meeting held on April 11, 2023 be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye 6 - Albrecht, Blair, Gould, Mungoli, Walker and Trent

Resolved, that the Minutes of the Sister City Committee/Rochester Meeting held on February 7, 2023 be approved as presented.

PRESENTATION

2023-0163 City Economic Development Trends and Synergy

Member Mungoli explained that the Sister City Committee/Rochester has been working on finding different ways to share information between the City of Rochester and the City of Rochester Hills. She described that at the Committee's last meeting, the Committee had representatives from the Parks and Recreation Departments from both cities come and speak to the Committee. She introduced both Sara Roediger, Director of Planning and

Economic Development for the City of Rochester Hills and Nik Banda, City Manager and Economic Development Director for the City of Rochester.

Ms. Roediger gave a brief description of her education: she had obtained her Masters in Urban Planning at Wayne State University and shared a bit of her previous work experience. She noted that she had met Mr. Banda when he was in the Planning Department at the City of Southfield and she was a consultant graduating from graduate school. She added that she had worked for almost a decade as a consultant with the City of Novi, West Bloomfield and other communities. She commented her preference in working with communities that have the structure with economic development and planning hand-in-hand because oftentimes the two areas are separated and not communicating with each other. She expressed her appreciation for her team at the City of Rochester Hills being so integrated in the community. She brought the 2022 Economic Development Report to share with the Committee Members. She explained that the report shows how both economic and planning strategies work together; the State requires them to prepare this but her team had stepped it up to be a more all encompassing report not just what is done from a state standpoint but as to what the goals and highlights are from the year. She went on to describe the Auburn Road Project and the coordination between all the different city departments such as Engineering, Facilities and the Fire Department. She described the City continually striving to serve its residents and completely overhauling the City's website to make it user friendly. She commended the City's Management Information Systems/GIS Area for their work on interactive maps on the City's website. She gave a brief description on how to use the interactive map system. She suggested that it would be great to have interactive maps on both cities' websites because many residents from both cities call with questions are not always sure where they live.

Member Albrecht inquired as to how Ms. Roediger and Mr. Banda work together so that both cities collaborate together to develop a 'region' mindset instead of individual cities.

Mr. Banda gave a brief description of his experience:

- He worked for the City of Southfield for approximately 30 years*
- He witnessed the cultural changes of Southfield's residents over the years*
- The Planning Department started tracking businesses and area communities for better planning*
- He shared his experience in Norfolk, VA which was losing its naval base and a group met there to help brainstorm possible uses for the property*
- He discussed the creation of a Mayor's Business Council under the Mayor and City Manager type government*
- He shared the experiences of the late 1990s when there was a business initiative to retain businesses in Oakland County and the State of Michigan*
- Determined it was much better to keep Planning and Economic Development working together*
- Saw the creation of a community of collaboration in Oakland County*
- He expressed his appreciation for Ms. Roediger and what the City of Rochester Hills has planned and for the fact that he can call her anytime to discuss questions and concerns, city to city*

- He also expressed his appreciation for Mayor Barnett and for the work he does bringing state and national attention to the communities of Rochester and Rochester Hills

Member Albrecht inquired if both Ms. Roediger and Mr. Banda use selling points from both cities to appeal to potential businesses and new residents.

Ms. Roediger responded that many long-time residents are not clear on where the city borders are and stated that Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township all share the schools, the parks, the Older Persons' Commission, etc. She continued that the communities all complement each other with the 3 different levels of downtown, suburban and very rural open space which appeal to many people.

Ms. Roediger and Mr. Banda recalled the collaborative work done on Chief Financial which is located in both cities. They both expressed their desire to have an interactive map that both cities could use on their respective websites. Ms. Roediger described the google interface working with the historical knowledge and the layers of zoning, wetland, flood plains, topography building footprints and expressed her favorite thing is that it is to scale and can use zoom to view property dimensions, widths and even includes the parcel identification numbers. She added that distance and setbacks can be measured and allows for accessibility and transparency for the communities.

The Committee Members discussed BS&A software and all of the information available regarding properties, acreage, address, permits, sales history and tax payments.

Discussion ensued among the committee members regarding the various communities and their retail, business and residential structures. They recalled how the Committee was instrumental in reviving the Memorial Day Celebration between the 3 communities. The discussion then turned to how the cities have had talks about the possibility of a dog park someday. The City of Rochester Hills Museum has been working with the City of Rochester and the Downtown Development Authority on historic preservation and archival of their respective records. There was mention of a grant for open space to maintain open space as part of a bee farm.

The Committee Members thanked both Ms. Roediger and Mr. Banda for meeting with them and discussing their respective Planning and Economic Development Departments for both cities.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2023-0054 Plans for 2023

2023 Memorial Day:

Member Albrecht gave a brief status update on the 2023 Memorial Day Parade. He stated that the Parade Committee (PC) had just met the day before and are working with the Rochester Area Regional Chamber of Commerce to facilitate

the parade. He reported that the PC Members were soliciting businesses to increase sponsorship for the perpetual parade fund. He stated that they are arranging with Selfridge Air Force Base for a flyover during the parade. He stated that another item the PC is working on is to make sure there are enough parade participants including high school marching bands to appear in the parade on Parade Day. He commented his hope that the area high school bands will become part of the rotation similarly to what they do for the Annual Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade.

Discussion ensued by Committee Members as to what city departments to invite next for the next Committee Meeting. The consensus was to see if the respective fire departments would be available for a future meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- Tuesday, June 6, 2023 - 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, it was moved by Member Albrecht and seconded by Member Trent to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.