

**MINUTES OF THE SISTER CITIES PROGRAM COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GALVESTON
REGULAR MEETING - JULY 14, 2025**

7/14/2025 - Sister Cities Program Committee Minutes

- 1 Declaration of a Quorum and Call Meeting to Order

Meeting started at 10:34 am

- 2 Roll Call

**Present Chair Cappadona, Vice Chair Sidney Tregre, CM Adams, CM Donlon
CM Bolton-Legg, and Ex Officio Council Member Sharon Lewis
Staff: Assistant City Secretary Nellie De La Fuente, and Senior Administrative
Martha Alvarez
Absent: CM Donna Williams**

- 3 Consider Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Motion by CM Adams to approve minutes from June 24, 2025
Second by Vice Chair Tregre
Motion carried by those present**

- 4 Public Comment

**Chair Cappadona introduced residents in attendance from Norway.
Senior Administrative Assistant Martha Alvarez spoke on the new House
Bill that passed on Agenda postings, she passed out a copy of all of the
Committee Member's contact information, and spoke on how the committee
voted at the last meeting regarding the recommendation of Ms. Pam Williams
to fill the vacant position.**

- 5 Report from CM Ex-Officio Sharon Lewis

**Ex Officio Council Member Sharon Lewis spoke on Volunteer Jack's article.
She stated that it was very well written and that it was very nice.**

- 6 Update on Sister Cities

6.A

- Niigata
- Veracruz
- Macharaviaya
- Stavanger

Chair Cappadona spoke on the different groups that will be arriving on 11/12/2025 from Niigata. The first group consist of 9 people which includes the Vice-Mayor of Niigata. The second group consist of 11 people and the third group consist of 3 people. The total comes to 23 people in total arriving on 11/12/2025. Chir Cappadon went on to say that he spoke to Barbara Sanderson who is the Director of Parks & Recreation for the City of Galveston about upgrading the little Niigata Garden on the side of City Hall. Chair Cappadona told the committee that he had scheduled the Rosenberg Library to be on standby as a backup plan for an outing if they need it. Vice Chair Tregre stated that transportation is very expensive but she did indicate that she is still looking into this. CM Bolton-Legg stated that the Niigata groups insisted on staying together when they traveled to and from the airport. She also reported on Home Stays and that she still need a few more to seek out. She also suggested for the Committee to get some business cards in order to hand out when our visitors arrive.

No update on Veracruz - (CM Williams is out)

Macharaviaya - (CM Donlon) She went to Macharaviaya and stayed in Malaga.

She stated that it was a very small but nice town and that their version of 4th of July was very nice, she even got to participate in the parade. She brought back little souvenirs for the Committee. CM Donlon passed out a small packet / flyer of their 4th of July fiesta.

Stavanger - (CM Adams) CM Adams is the one who brought in the people from Norway to sit in our Sister Cities Meeting. No update on Stavanger.

7 Additional Input from Guest, Committee, and Staff

Volunteer Jack presented an article that he wrote and wanted the Committee's approval in order to publish it in the Galveston Daily News. A vote took place.

Motion to publish the article in the Galveston Daily News by CM Bolton=Leg

Second by CM Adams

Motion carried by those present

8 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Next meeting is August 12, 2025

9 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 11:00 am

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Manuela 'Nellie' De La Fuente". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Manuela "Nellie" De La Fuente
Assistant City Secretary
August 12, 2026