

City of Portsmouth
Sister Cities Blue Ribbon Committee
Conference Room A at City Hall*
MEETING MINUTES

June 27, 2024

Councilor Rich Blalock, chair; Steve Chinosi, Ben Van Camp, Bob Sullivan, Stephanie Seacord.
Staff: Christine Frieze

Report on Accra/Kitasi – SCI Ghana zoom (55 participants) Mildred Vanderpaige in Columbia SC and Lorna Johnson/SCI Africa – seeking to create “500 in 5” connections. 133 so far.
Followup with participants in Peter Randall’s photo book tour: TJ Wheeler, Valerie Cunningham.

Funding for SC Committee initiatives

Ambassador Fund (\$52,000) for his/her activities. Advised to create a new trust (approved on vote by City Council) as a special recovable account that can receive tax-deductible donations. Chair Blalock will prepare a document for next Committee meeting review. Purpose: so that any funds expended in the course of SC activities are not tax-payer dollars.

Update on Existing and Prospective Sister/Friendship Cities:

- **Nelson NZ** – Seacoast rugby champion from NZ. Will email the SCI application to the Mayor.
- **Santarcangelo, Italy** – Mayor Filippo Sacchetti elected as Mayor. Sep 29 is Feast of St. Michael Archangel.