MINUTES

Present: Rein Ende as Chairman, Bob Semkow, Pat Semkow, Selina Zhang, Justina Ku, Tiantzu Zheng, James Cao, Jun Li, Jeff Bonner, Hui Zhang, Jan Lukas, Eileen Noronha, Xingfang Chen (from Ma’anshan).
Also present: Jane Lee (City of Hamilton)
Regrets: Gloria Jackson, Ida DeJesus, Solomon Ngan, Margaret Firth, Jane Wanamaker

1. Call to Order: Rein Ende, at 6:10 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda: approved as distributed.

3. Declaration of conflict of interest: none

4. Approval of minutes from December 14: approved as distributed.

5. Reports

5.1 Chairman

- Rein Ende reported that he had attended a presentation by the Culture for Peace group at the Skydragon. He declared it to be well-organized and productive, and encouraged further attendance at their events.
- He also mentioned a phone call from a citizen in Niagara Falls wishing to organize a city twinning with a location in the Punjab region. Apparently there is a citizens’ group with the interest. They wish to encourage tourism.
- He is trying to set up a meeting with the Mayor’s Office to discuss plans for this year’s twin cities’ anniversaries, and anticipated increased expenses for additional activity. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the twinnings with Racalmuto (Sicily), Ma’anshan (PRC) and Flint (MI), from 1987.

5.2 Treasurer: No activity since the previous report.
6. **Matters for discussion**

6.1 **World Citizenship Award:** Jeff Bonner has been working on the nomination package and expects to release it soon. The date for the presentation is Tuesday, May 8.

6.2 **Ma’anshan anniversary plans:** A workgroup is discussing plans. We anticipate a group coming for a visit. Typically these are arranged at the beginning of May or October to coincide with holidays in China. We will need to co-ordinate with the Mayor’s Office to determine appropriate actions from us, whether a dinner, a gift, a book or whatever else. We might get called upon for a letter of invitation. Possible involvement with Mohawk College and Economic Development?

6.3 **Hamilton Culture of Peace:** An event is planned for February 4 at the Freeway Café. The topic is “A Department of Peace.” We need to have our pamphlets available as well as a display board for use at such events. The Peace Luncheon is scheduled for February 28.

6.4 **Website update:** No progress since the last meeting. But consensus that we should try to maintain and reorganize what we have, if possible. A group of volunteers indicated readiness to work on this project.

6.5 **May meeting date change:** This is our AGM date. The chair indicated a conflict with the date, and claimed that it was close to our WCA event date. He said that he would try to re-arrange for a week or two later, depending on availability of meeting room space.

7. **Adjournment.** With the completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.