

Minutes of the Meeting  
Sparta, New Jersey Sister City Committee  
Sparta Town Hall, Sparta, NJ  
November 18, 2024

Presiding: Councilman Dan Chiariello

Secretary: Councilman Dan Chiariello

Present Constituting a Quorum:

- Andrew Buchanan, Sparta school district representative
- Dan Chiariello, municipal council representative
- Police Chief Jeff McCarrick
- Stella Trikouros, member of the public

Convening

Sparta Municipal Council liaison Dan Chiariello convened the public meeting at 6:30 pm, and seeing there was a quorum, the meeting of November 18, 2024, was called to order.

Discussion Summary

The minutes from October 21, 2024 were unanimously approved.

Academic discussions and other speakers:

- The Sparta Institute suggests as the primary academic topic “Sparta Laws influence on US Constitution”.
- Other topics may include cultural influence of Sparta to explore why so many towns are named after Sparta.
- We may solicit a few guest or “celebrity” speakers.

Funding:

- We will look for individuals or organizations that may help contribute to funding the event as a sponsor.
- We will consider charging an entrance fee to offset some of the costs, including food and transportation.

Logistics:

- We need a plan for lodging and transportation (shuttles).
- We will likely need a plan for food trucks.

Tentative outline of the schedule for further discussion

- Friday, October 9, 2026
  - Most speakers and guests will arrive.
  - We should plan for an informal dinner.

- We will ask the Sparta High School athletic director to schedule a Friday night football game. During halftime we will introduce our guests.
- Saturday, October 10, 2026
  - There will be one block of time in the morning, a break for lunch, and one or two blocks of time in the afternoon.
  - The morning block will include an opening ceremony, introductions, welcoming speeches, etc.
    - We will ask the governor to join us as well as other elected officials.
    - Is Tina Fey interested?
    - We will ask the Sparta High School marching band to participate.
    - We should explore making introductory videos. Solicit help from the Sparta High School media department and our film ready committee. This will include video introductions of the “other Sparta’s”.
  - After the introduction we will break for lunch.
    - We will explore serving lunch on site.
    - Sparta High School, Sussex Vocational-Technical School, and Sussex County Community College all offer culinary arts programs. Perhaps they can participate.
    - We may offer food trucks.
    - We may offer shuttles to take people around to restaurants in Sparta.
  - After lunch we will have one or two afternoon blocks of time for lectures.
  - In the evening, we will hold a festival.
    - We will close Main Street.
    - We will include food trucks.
    - We expect Hellenic groups will participate and offer activities.
    - Local restaurants will be encouraged to offer outdoor dining.
    - We will feature live music.
    - We can secure large tents if needed in case there is rain.
    - Restroom facilities may be brought in, and we may also use the VFW and town hall bathrooms.
- Sunday, October 11, 2026
  - There may be one block of time in the morning, a break for lunch, and a block of time in the afternoon.
  - We may consider having a different theme for lectures on Saturday from those on Sunday. For example, Saturday’s lectures may feature a cultural theme while Sunday may be for the system of laws.
  - The afternoon block will include the closure of the event.

#### Proposed Participating Groups:

- American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the largest secular Greek organization in the country
- Daughters of Penelope

Dr. Zenon Christodoulou from the New Jersey Hellenic American Heritage Commission briefly joined the discussion by telephone at the end.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.