



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

International Committee

Monday, November 28, 2016

5:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by chairperson Sherry Olson.

Members Present:

Michael DeYoe, Art Marson, Sherry Olson, Gary Padesky, Linda Pfaff, Vickie Unferth, Julie Welch

Excused: Irene Barmore, Nicole Gullekson

Mission of the International Committee

Julie read the mission statement.

The City of La Crosse International Committee exists as an umbrella committee to advise the Mayor and City Council, to act as a resource on international matters, to advise and recommend future relationships with international cities, and to act as a liaison among the La Crosse sister city relationships.

Welcome and introduction of visitors

City Council member Andrea Richmond introduced herself.

Approval of Minutes

Linda made a motion to approve the minute of the previous meeting, and Gary seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Art was unable to clarify the available balance question from the previous meeting. He received an update as of November 2, 2016 that showed a budget of \$3000 with about \$1766 spent and \$1233.47 remaining. (He did not have the paper report with him.)

The outstanding bill of \$765.00 for Sister City dues was remaining. Gary made a motion to pay the bill, and Linda seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Art asked about when the committee would get another \$3000 and was told we would talk about that later.

Gary made a motion to approve Art's report but still pending clarification on

the September report. The motion was seconded by Julie. Clarification is needed from Polly and Todd.

Sister City Reports and Announcements

Bantry was having a Christmas party at Bluffside the following Friday. They are collecting winter clothing donations. The Coulee Hoolie Ceili fundraiser will be in February at Concordia Ballroom. They are raising funds for suicide prevention. Lisheens House in Bantry helps people who are prone to suicide or have had a family member commit suicide.

Gary asked whether anyone in Bantry had sent money here. Linda reported that they did for the garden.

Julie asked what the February event will be. Linda explained that a "hoolie" is a music party and "ceili" is dancing. They will have a caller and silent auction. Asked whether it is a family-friendly activity, Linda said yes. Julie said that she could advertise at North Woods.

A trip to Ireland is planned for June 4-14. A presentation was being given the following Wednesday at Shenanigan's. Cost will be \$3500 per person with 20-25 people. Other parts of Ireland will be included, but 3 or 4 days will be spent in Bantry.

Dubna

Mayor Prokh's stepson was in La Crosse at the time of the meeting. He is a graphic artist, doing work at Gundersen. He designed posters for the annual meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 26, at the Episcopal Church on Main Street. They will be serving a flat pancake with toppings, and Busya will provide music. Art will bring the flyer to the next meeting.

They are working on a teacher exchange. Maria Mason will go in May.

People in Russia are friendly but leery. The last time Sandy McCormick went, she was not invited to meet with city officials.

Epinal

No report.

Forde

No report.

Friedberg

No report.

Kumbo

Sherry missed the last meeting. They raised enough money for the rural school toilets and hand-washing project. She thinks a delegation will be sent. They are also raising money for books for Africa.

Luoyang

A student exchange group of 24 students and 2 chaperones will come at the end of January and stay two weeks with host families. There will be a welcome banquet. They will be here around the time of Chinese New Year. Planning

continues for a La Crosse delegation to visit Luoyang in June, including Mayor Kabat.

In October 2017 a delegation of Chinese teachers who teach English in China and have previously participated in an exchange here will visit. This is being supported by a donation from Foreign Language School #2 in Luoyang.

Review/Update By-Laws & Funding Guidelines

The committee was Todd, Linda, Irene, and Gary.

Regarding membership, there should be 12 members. If a group can't find a representative, the representative may continue.

It was decided to call our executives chair and vice chair o be consistent with other committees. Vickie will retype the bylaws and provide before the next meeting.

Review and Proposal Consideration for Ordinance, Sec. 2-636

By-law updates will be completed before further discussion on whether this is needed.

Welcome to new officers and thank you to past officers

Affirmed.

2017 International Committee Budget

Gary had heard comments but nothing had been confirmed. Andrea Richmond asked about the mayor's travel coming from our budget. Gary will have a budget update before the next meeting. The committee budget will be revised if the amount is reduced.

Reprinting of Sister City Brochures

The Convention and Visitors Bureau has no sister city brochures. Gary asked about available copies at City Hall. This question was deferred to January when we know what the budget is. The brochure may need to be updated before new copies are made. It should be added that sister city groups welcome donations. The person who designed the current brochure now lives in California.

Global Initiatives Week 2016 update

Several committee members were at the kick-off, which had a wonderful turnout. Entertainment was split, with stories in one room and dancing in the other. Food was in a circle; that area was a little crowded. Some people didn't realize there were displays in the snake room. Committee members did not know whether there was a public service announcement. The energy was good.

There are placemats remaining. Teachers at North Woods would like some. Some restaurants displayed a placemat in the window. Those who have them will count how many we have for next year.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

Next meeting will be Monday, January 23.

Adjournment

Michael made a motion to adjourn, and Gary seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.