



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

International Committee

Monday, March 27, 2017

5:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by chairperson Sherry Olson.

Present: 10 - Irene Barmore, Todd Bye, Gale Kreibich, Michael De Yoe, Gary Padesky, Julie Welch, Sherry Olson, Vickie Unferth, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher

Absent: 2 - Nicole Gullekson, Leah Durnin Hoover

2 Mission of the International Committee

Heather 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.

3 Welcome and introduction of visitors

Heather Dutcher is now the Bantry representative, so Linda Pfaff was present as a guest.

4 Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Gary Padesky, seconded by Julie Welch, to APPROVE the minutes of March 27, 2017.

5 Treasurer's Report

Art had not yet arrived for the meeting, but Gary confirmed that the committee was granted \$8000 for the year. Gary made a motion to pay \$200 for the Luoyang student welcome banquet. Julie seconded the motion. The banquet was partially catered and partially potluck. Motion was approved.

Treasurers Report, Part 2:

Art was now present, so he confirmed that there was \$8000 in the budget. He would prefer to work from a planned budget. We were reminded that the original list of request for the 2017 budget was \$12,065, but we reduced it to \$8000, which is what was approved.

Irene stated that the Budget Guidelines need to be reviewed. The agenda for the May meeting will include the review. The current Budget Guidelines were January 24, 2011.

Julie made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Heather seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Mike needs to provide receipts or an invoice for the Luoyang reimbursement to be paid. When he has the paperwork, he will forward to Polly with a copy of the minutes.

6 Sister City Reports/Announcements

Dubna

The Maslenitsa at the end of February turned out well. The group voted to do it again next year. They served blini, and attendance was good.

Meetings have been changed from 5:30 to 12:30.

Art asked about the process to get the mayor to the Sister Cities conference if the mayor of Dubna attends with other Russian mayors. Mike thinks that in the past there was a formal request from the mayor of Luoyang. The conference is in July in Virginia Beach. Art does not know when he will be informed on whether the mayor of Dubna will attend. The question was raised whether the mayor's attendance would come from the committee budget. We put \$800 in the budget for the Sister City annual conference. The last time anyone from the committee attended the conference, it was in Minneapolis.

Epinal

The March 2 fundraiser at Le Chateau was a success, thanks to limiting tickets to 130; special wines, cheese, and hors d'oeuvres; the musical group "Under Paris Skies"; and a good selection of silent auction and door prize items.

The regional French-speaking contest (Concours Oral) will be April 8 at Holmen.

The group has approved their new by-laws and opened a bank account, completing their reorganization.

Friedberg

The German International Relations Committee (GIRC) has been restructured under the new name of La Crosse Area German Relations Association, Inc. (LAGRA) as a non-profit with new by-laws and a bank account. The mission is the same. The group will still support two different high school German exchanges, area German heritage with language and culture, and the relationship with the partner city of Friedberg.

The Logan High School German group was doing a fundraiser with Burrachos the following night from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

An exchange group will be coming in September for 3 to 4 weeks.

Twenty-two German students from Lincoln and Logan completed in the regional German-speaking contest in Milwaukee, and thirteen qualified for the State contest in May.

Kumbo

The group succeeded in their fundraising goal. Work on hand sanitation and toilet facilities has begun. A small delegation will go in December or January, but Sherry does not know who will go. They are also collecting for Books for Africa.

Luoyang

The welcome banquet at Central High School was successful, with 20+ host

families; visiting students; representatives from Viterbo and UW-L.

They are planning the delegation visit to Luoyang that will include the mayor and a business contingency of 3-4 local businesspersons, around June 12 to 17. A delegation of teachers from Luoyang who previously taught in La Crosse schools is expected to visit at the end of September. They will be here for three days, including the Oktoberfest parade.

Bantry

The group completed the 501c3 paperwork before January 1, and it has been approved.

The Coulee Hoolie Ceili raised money for non-profits in Bantry and La Crosse-\$1100 to each and \$600 for the group. Attendance grew considerably from last year. They will do a check presentation here and then one in June at Lisheens House in Bantry.

Fourteen group members participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

The 10-day trip to Ireland will be June 5 to 14. A number of people are going on their own to be in Bantry the second weekend.

7 International Banquet Review

Comments were that there was newspaper coverage and that all of the entertainers except the bagpipers were Asian. Photos are available in the campus collection (<http://news.uwlax.edu/photos-international-banquet/>). The banquet was in the New Student Union, which offers the largest venue on campus. Irene and Todd set up the display.

8 Old Business

A. 2017 International Budget

As stated above, the committee received \$8000 for the year. The other \$95.22 is from sales in a previous year.

B. Ordinance, Sec. 2-636 Status

Persons can stay on the committee if a group cannot find a replacement. The committee appreciates that Gary did the work on this.

C. Reprinting of Sister City Brochures

Linda Pfaff reported that Kevin Fisk at La Crosse Printing has the disk with committee brochure and placemat designs.

Regarding updates to the brochure, Sherry said there would be updated information for Cameroon. Irene reported there would be no changes in the Epinal information but there would be for Germany. Art said that Dubna needed to be updated. Sherry asked that changes be submitted to her by April 15 so that she could get them to Kevin Fisk the next week and get a draft out by the end of April.

Sherry asked how many brochures to order and how much to spend. Heather stated that she believed the brochures recently ordered by the Bantry group were 84 cents each. Brochures will be used at the visitor center, at display table, at the Friendship Garden, and at the Global Initiatives Week kick-off. Linda believed the last order was 500 copies, 3 or 4 years ago. It was mentioned that there is a group working on a sister city in Luxembourg. It was decided the committee will need to vote on what to order when we have a price.

9 New Business

Sister City Website Updates

Sherry provided copies of the Norway page from the City website, which lists contact persons. She suggested all groups list this type of information.

Irene said that web pages are all very different. Irene has been corresponding with the webmaster. She forwarded contact information that had not been posted at the time of our meeting.

Sherry said that the Kumbo group has a president but does not have other officers.

Find information by going to the City website, cityoflacrosse.org, then Government, and then Sister Cities. Updates go to Jackie Greschner in IT, greschnerj@cityoflacrosse.org. Heather said the Bantry group updated their page through Heidi in the Mayor's Office. Irene suggested everyone look at <https://cityoflacrosse.org/sistercities>. Sherry asked that each group look at what they have and contact Jackie directly. Irene said Jackie had added half of what had been provided at the time of the meeting.

Julie supported Sherry's suggestion by stating it would be nice to have contact persons listed when people request speakers.

The website address needs to be updated on the front of the International Committee brochure.

Adjournment

Next Meeting

Budget guideline review will be on the next agenda. Sherry asked for other suggestions. Linda Pfaff suggested a newsletter. Sherry asked who the audience would be and pointed out that we probably do not currently have a budget for mailing. Sherry suggested we have a calendar, which Julie suggested be linked to the website. Irene said the committee previously had a calendar.

Adjournment

Heather made a motion to adjourn and Gale seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be May 22.

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.