



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

International Committee

Monday, July 24, 2017

5:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order, Roll Call

Chairperson Sherry Olson called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

Present: 9 - Irene Barmore, Todd Bye, Jessica Olson, Michael De Yoe, Julie Welch, Sherry Olson, Vickie Unferth, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher

Excused: 1 - Gale Kreibich

Absent: 1 - Leah Durnin Hoover

Mission of 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

No visitors were present.

Approval of Minutes

Irene requested minutes be kept to two pages. Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting, and Julie seconded. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Art reported that expenses for Luoyang had been \$1400 for the Mayor's plane ticket and \$200 for the welcome banquet when students visited La Crosse. Balance on the accounts were \$6300 and \$95.22. The City report indicated \$90 paid to Ron and Angela Schlicht. Mike volunteered to check on the purpose and process for that payment.

Todd asked about the annual conference. Nobody attended this year. Jessica moved to approve the Treasurer Report as corrected with \$90 listed as Miscellaneous under Luoyang. Heather seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Agenda Items:

Sister City Reports

Bantry

Heather reported the committee was gearing up for Irish Fest. They were expecting delegates from Bantry Bay Seafoods, which donates mussels for the group fundraiser. Dates are August 11 to 13 at the Oktoberfest grounds.

Dubna

There were no updates to share.

Epinal

Irene reported that 13 high school students and 2 teachers enjoyed the July 14 Bastille Day celebration in Epinal with fireworks, music, a street dance, a military review, and a flyover. At the time of our meeting, they were in Paris. Several committee members also made the trip.

Committee events to host the French intern, Helene, included Riverfest, potlucks, parties, and sightseeing outings.

Friedberg

Irene reported the two Logan High School German teachers were recently in Friedberg visiting and planning for the 23 exchange students who will be here in September.

The Wolfgang Auer Blue Baby sculpture arrived at the end of June and needs an exhibit space. Some possibilities are the walkway by the outdoor fountain, Gundersen lobby, Riverside Park, and the La Crosse Center.

Forde

No report.

Kumbo

Sherry reported they had their fundraiser at the end of June. They raised funding for dental supplies. Sister Mark was in La Crosse learning from local dentists. The committee is working on plans for a Kumbo garden in Riverside Park, which she expects to be around the corner from the Bantry garden.

Luoyang

Mike reported that a delegation of eight people went in June. These included the group president and treasurer, their spouses, representatives from Seven Rivers Alliance and Gundersen, and the Mayor. They were treated well, ate with people from a Technical College and Foreign Language School #2, and visited an important hospital.

In late August, seven Luoyang delegates are expected, including six district area representatives and the vice-mayor, for a visit of about 24 hours. The principal and four teachers from Foreign Language School #2 will come the last day of September and first day of October, a 2 ½ day visit. All group members have been here before. They will march in the parade. Jessica offered to translate if needed.

2017 Draft Funding Guidelines

Attachments: [2017 Draft Funding Guidelines](#)
 [2017 Funding Guidelines Final Draft 07.24.2017](#)

Suggestions were made for the introduction and Gifts, Travel, and Miscellaneous sections. Vickie will provide an updated draft for the September meeting.

Reprinting of Sister City Brochures

Irene moved to print the brochures as last updated for \$315.00. Jessica seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sister City Website Updates

Jessica learned that Jackie can do a calendar on each page, but she cannot do a combined calendar with a flashy way of designating sponsoring group. The website now has traffic-monitoring capability. Sherry sent Kumbo updates to Jackie.

Global Initiatives Week

Location of the kick-off event has not yet been determined. Vickie has attended one committee meeting. Dates are November 3 to 10. Vickie proposed a Service Saturday with an international focus. She asked that Sister City groups create projects that a team of volunteers could work on for several hours on a Saturday morning that will be November 4 or 11.

Sister City International Dues

Annual dues are \$780. Art made a motion to pay, and Heather seconded. Motion passed.

Luoyang Funding Requests

Mike distributed three requests. For the June trip to Luoyang, items discussed were the Mayor's gift at \$175, embroidered gift bags at \$535, and representative expenses. Jessica pointed out that with the current funding guidelines, receipts need to total \$2250 to reimburse \$750 in delegate expenses. Julie moved to approve \$175 for the Mayor's gift plus \$750 for delegate expenses, for a total of \$925. Vickie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The committee decided to postpone the other two Luoyang requests until the next meeting.

Bantry Funding Request

Heather requested \$327 for hotel and \$100 for a meet and greet with the Bantry delegation, for a total of \$427.00. Jessica moved to approve, and Irene seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date/Agenda Items

The next meeting will be Monday, September 25.

Adjournment

Mike made a motion to adjourn and Todd seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 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.