



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

International Committee

Monday, May 21, 2018

5:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Chairperson Sherry Olson called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

The meeting started late because building doors were locked, and members were not immediately able to enter. Once inside, Jessica spoke with Steve Carlyon, who told her a decision had been made that building doors were now to be locked at 5 pm. Committees would need to meet before 5 pm or meet outside of City Hall. Mr. Carlyon told her he had expected notice before the change began.

Roll Call

Welcome and introduction of Visitors:

Brad Williams from WIZM was present as a guest.

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

Excused: 2 - Gale Kreibich, Emelee Volden

Absent: 1 - Leah Durnin Hoover

Mission of the International Committee

Jessica 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.

Election of New Secretary

Sherry nominated Heather, Jessica seconded, and Heather accepted the nomination. Heather was unanimously voted as new secretary. She will begin with the July meeting. Jessica asked to put into the minutes that Vickie's work as secretary was appreciated.

Approval of Minutes

Irene made corrections in the Friedberg report. Twenty pounds of chocolate were sent to Mayor Kling, and the calendars Todd created went to the mayor and committee.

Julie moved to approve the March minutes, and Jessica seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Art apologized for missing the last meeting. Based on his understanding that the budget was to be similar to previous years, he provided a budget/expenditure statement. He had spoken to Polly and learned that nothing was submitted or spent since his previous report. The \$95.22 separate line item was identified by others as from previous t-shirt sales and a coat check fundraiser. Jessica stated that Heidi had confirmed with her that the \$8000 total was approved. The Mayor has insisted that the frame construction for the gift from the Luoyang delegation come from the committee budget. Jessica moved to approve the budget report, and Heather seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Items:

[18-0122](#)

Sister City reports and announcements - Bantry; Dubna; Epinal; Forde; Friedberg; Kumbo; Luoyang.

Bantry

Heather reported that the group had elections, and she is now vice president. They are working on getting a delegation to visit La Crosse. As a result of their fundraiser, they donated \$1500 to Sacred Grounds and \$1500 to Cork ARC Cancer Support House. This year's event was their most successful.

Dubna

Art reported that the committee had met earlier that day. The situation with Russia is still tentative. The mayor of Dubna contacted them; they are trying to get confirmation from Moscow to continue Sister City interactions. The local group hopes the new mayor will be able to visit around Oktoberfest. The Dubna group expects a reply by the second week of June regarding exchanges. They did some tweaking in the international garden and might add something related to chess, maybe a table and bench, or a peace pole in conjunction with other cities. There will be an open house in the gardens September 6, from 4 to 6 pm.

Epinal

Irene reported that planning continues for the bell ringer trip, student group exchange, and banner. French language programs are having trouble. One teacher is in both La Crosse high schools and teaching an overload. Some classes are combined.

Forde

No report.

Friedberg

Todd reported last month's elections resulted in Gary Schettler being elected president and Irene Barmore secretary. They are planning for a delegation to be here at the end of September and beginning of August. A group of exchange students is going June 1. They had a German dinner at their committee meeting, prepared by Gary Schettler.

Kumbo

Sherry's class conflict is over, but she was out of town for the last meeting. They did a fundraiser for dental equipment, including a chair. Work continues on the garden. A Catholic Sister in Kumbo sent an email about things not being good between the French and English-speaking parts, resulting in schools starting late. They do not anticipate a group traveling to Cameroon soon.

The group received information about the People's Picnic at Riverside Park on July 20. The sponsoring group is looking for performers, information tables from city groups, and food vendors. John David will be sending Sherry more information.

Luoyang

Mike reported that the visiting scholar has finished her term. The group will have a farewell banquet for her on June 5. No delegations are coming that they know. There might be a high school group going from La Crosse to Luoyang. The principal of Foreign Language School #2 donated funds for a

carp to be carved for the garden, and work is in progress.

[18-0124](#)

2018 Budget.

Attachments: [2018 budget](#)

A budget of \$8000 was confirmed earlier in the meeting.

[18-0442](#)

Luoyang funding request.

The \$90 for framing costs has to come from the committee budget. A painting was donated by the Luoyang delegation, which Mike framed. Jessica moved to reimburse Mike the \$90 for materials, and Sherry seconded. Motion carried. Mike will provide an invoice.

18-0125

International banner design.

Sherry was to receive bullet points and 1 or 2 photos for each group by the time of this meeting. Julie had found commonalities, which were distributed at the March meeting. Heather learned that some groups wanted more pictures, and she would like consistency. Irene did a rewrite on important points and found a number of pictures she believes to be appropriate. She proposed using a collage of 12 photos for Epinal and a collage of 11 photos for Friedberg. Heather updated her recommendation to allow a collage of 5 to 13 photos for each city. Jessica moved to set a range of 6 to 12 photos and proceed with collage designs. Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Todd will create the collages. Members were asked to send him 6 to 12 photos, each 300 or more dpi. Heather suggested Global Initiatives Week as a goal for completion. Todd suggested sending up to 20 so that he has some flexibility in selecting photos that will work. Photos should be sent to Todd by June 30, and wording should be sent to Heather by June 30. Heather would like to have mock-ups ready by the July meeting.

Todd had picked up a flyer from La Crosse Print which said the actual banner size is 33 x 78 inches. Each case will be 5 x 5 x 35 inches.

Mike asked whether the banners will be available for individual sister cities to use. The answer was yes, but a storage location still needs to be found and a check-out process developed. Although Jessica was previously told there is no storage space in City Hall, she will take the argument back to Teri Lehrke that these will be City property. Someone from the International Committee would be responsible for getting a banner to an event.

Irene asked that meeting minutes be distributed sooner, so that corrections can be made before each meeting.

Julie has brochure holders in her garage, and Sherry has the brochures. Brochure holders at the rest area are locked after 4:30 pm and on weekends. Currently sister city brochures are not available there, and most of the brochures available are because people paid to have them there. Mike's wife Carmen is on the International Garden Committee and can help with who to contact for garden display. Julie will contact Robin Moses about having them available through Downtown Mainstreet and someone at the International Garden about placing the brochures.

International Banquet update.

Heather set up the display for the banquet on Saturday, April 14. Although there was a snowstorm, banquet attendance was still good. The display is currently stored on Heather's porch.

2018 Sister City International Conference.

Sherry is thinking about attending the conference, which will be in Aurora, Colorado. The committee has \$800 budgeted for the conference. Registration is \$650 but \$450 before May 31. Jessica moved to approve the \$450 registration and additional expenses later but then withdrew her motion due to lack of a second. Jessica made a new motion to authorize the chair to utilize up to \$800 for registration fee, hotel, and transportation, with money to come from the SCI annual conference line of the budget. Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A group from La Crosse attended the conference two years ago in Minneapolis. Next year's conference will be in Houston.

Adjournment

Julie moved that the next meeting be at 5:30 pm on Monday, July 23, tentatively at the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center. Art seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sherry will contact Parks and Rec to schedule the location.

Julie moved to adjourn, and Irene seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 23.

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.