



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

International Committee

Monday, December 10, 2018

5:30 PM

Black River Beach Neighborhood Center
Cottonwood Room
1433 Rose Street

Call to Order

Chairperson Sherry Olson called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM

Roll Call

Absent: Viterbo, Forde

Jessica Olson arrived at 5:50 PM

Present: 9 - Jessica Olson, Vacant 1, Michael De Yoe, Julie Welch, Sherry Olson,
Vickie Unferth, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher, Emelee Volden

Excused: 2 - Irene Barmore, Todd Bye

Mission of the International Committee

Read by Sherry Olson:

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

Mindy Wiesjahn is visiting from Luxembourg Society. They are working on getting approval for creating a sister city.

Election of officers

Sherry nominated Art for Chair, Emilee 2nd, Passed.

Julie nominated Heather for Secretary, Sherry 2nd. Passed.

Sherry nominated Emily Treasurer, Julie 2nd. Passed.

Julie nominated Jessica as Vice-Chair, Sherry 2nd. Passed.

Approval of Minutes

Emelee's name was spelled incorrectly twice. Julie moved to accept meeting minutes with name spelling correction.

Treasurer's Report

Current balance is \$6,737.77. A number of expenditures we've approved have not yet been submitted including, money for Epinal, Friedberg and Global Initiatives Week totaling \$1,750. These need to be submitted by December 28 to receive the funds. Jessica made a motion to approve Treasurers report. Emelee 2nd. Passed.

Agenda Items:

18-1610

Sister City & School Reports/Announcements - Bantry; Dubna; Epinal; Forde; Friedberg; Kumbo; Luoyang; UWL; Viterbo; Western TC

Bantry – Holiday party was last weekend. Beneficiaries have been selected for the 4th Annual Coulee Hoolie Ceili: Bantry Hospice House and Special Projects for Gundersen and Mayo Hospice programs. Planning is in the works for a 2019 delegation trip. The Major has expressed that he is on board to join.

Dubna – Space in Russian garden. Mayor Zielke's daughter is interested in making a donation for a non-permanent item to put in the space that can be moved if more work is needed on the area. The David Bell fund is available in addition to Zielke's donation to something here and Russia. They are planning the Maslenitsa (Orthodox Church pre-lenten celebration) March 3, 2019 at Christ Episcopal.

Epinal – (sent in advance via email) Epinal delegation of 3 visited Sept. 27-30. While here they visited Le Chateau, walked in the Maple Leaf parade & toured the area, enjoyed a La Crosse Queen dinner cruise. A large group of committee members, teachers & French students carried the banner in the Oktoberfest Maple Leaf parade. Epinal committee members had a display at the Global Initiatives Kick-off. In Epinal the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI was celebrated.

Forde – no rep present

Friedberg – (sent in advance via email) Students who had participated in the High school exchange attended a LAGRA meeting to share some of their "Neue Perspektive" and thank the group for a supporting stipend. At the Oktoberfest North Side Heritage Day high school German students taught German customs & culture to third grade students. The Lincoln Middle School Oktoberfest provided a German dinner & entertainment. A delegation of 12 persons was here Sept. 28 - Oct. 3. They stayed in host families, walked in the Maple Leaf parade, along with their hosts, high school & middle school German students and their teachers. They visited a cranberry bog & Amish country as well as various things in La Crosse. LAGRA participated in the Global Initiatives Week Kick-off.

Kumbo – November fundraising event was cancelled. In lieu of event, they will send out a newsletter with a funding request. There is still unrest in Cameroon. Planning for the Kumbo International Garden continues.

Luoyang – China town hall was on 10/9 with 2 good programs on teaching in Luoyang. Visiting Scholar, Ivy is taking four classes at UWL. Emma, another visiting scholar, is coming in mid-January. Have a delegation of Middle School students coming in February, 22 students and 2 chaperones.

UWL – Semester is winding down. As part of the UWL Strategic Plan, UWL applied and was selected for the American Council on Education (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to advance internationalization at UWL. More than 40 people have been involved with this project and the end result will be reported recommendations to UWL Administration and to ACE. Earlier fall semester UWL was selected for an ACE grant project to develop a COIL course with Kagoshima University in Japan.

Viterbo – no rep present

Western TC – Our current semester ends on December 14th. Classes start again on January 7th. Currently, no one in charge of International affairs. There was a state funded opportunity to study abroad to learn about Hmong culture and then write curriculum to incorporate into current courses. Selection process has not been completed.

18-1611

International Banners wrap-up.

Banners are done and in hand. They were displayed prominently at the Global Initiatives Kick-off. Heather will spend time marking them as Property of the City of La Crosse International Committee and then bring them to the UWL International Education office where Emelee will keep them. Only International Committee members can check them out, unless someone on the committee give prior consent to Emelee.

18-1612

Global Initiatives Week recap.

Record numbers, venue was great, nice entertainment.

18-1613

2019 Budget.

The international committee budget was adjusted from 2018 to 2019 from \$8,000 to \$3,000. We will look again at our projections and spending limits. A subcommittee will come up with some recommendations to update our spending guidelines for 2019. Jessica, Sherry and Emelee will participate in the ad hoc subcommittee to come up with new recommendations. Members expressed surprising disappointment at such an extreme cut without notice.

18-1614

New representatives for Forde and Viterbo.

Art will contact Viterbo to identify a new possible representative. Sherry will contact Forde.

Adjournment

Next meeting will be held on Monday, January 28, 2019. Heather made a motion to adjourn, Julie 2nd. Passed at 7:01 p.m.

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.