



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

International Committee

Monday, May 20, 2019

5:30 PM

3rd Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Chairperson Art Marson called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Irene Barmore, Vacant 1, Gary Padesky, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher, Emelee Volden

Excused: 1 - Mackenzie Brady

Absent: 4 - Todd Bye, Michael De Yoe, Julie Welch, Vickie Unferth

Mission of the International Committee

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 Guests

No visitors.

Approval of Minutes

Vacant 1 not present, Vicki Unferth has resigned and is no longer a committee member, call to order time is missing, next meeting was listed incorrectly. No action taken at this time.

Treasurer's Report

\$250 was paid out to La Crosse-Luoyang Friendship Association. Our current balance is \$2,845.22 (includes additional fund). No action taken.

Agenda Items:

1 [19-0761](#)

Sister City and School Reports/Announcements - Bantry, Dubna, Epinal, Forde, Friedberg, Kumbo, Luoyang, School District,,UW-L, Viterbo, and Western.

Bantry – Bantry will present checks to La Crosse and Bantry Hospice programs tomorrow, May 21, 2019 at Irish Garden in Riverside Park, totaling \$3,100.

Dubna – Visit from former mayor Prokh a few weeks ago. They had a nice gathering and welcome dinner. Working with the current mayor to see if we can get some delegations up and running again. Visa's are difficult at the moment. In lieu of requesting money from the City of La Crosse, the reception was paid for through a grant from the City of La Crosse Community Foundation for \$500.

Epinal – Granted students \$2,000 in aid towards student exchange this summer. Granted \$1,000 towards exchange from the group to get from Paris to Epinal. Mayor Kabat will join the delegation in Epinal, Sep 21-25, 2019.

Forde – No rep present

Friedberg – Reminder that Thursday, May 30, 2019 will be the German Heritage Potluck Dinner at 5 p.m. in Myrick Park Main Shelter. There is no cost, donations are accepted.

Kumbo - (sent via email in advance) – On April 25th, 100 people gathered in La Crosse (and more guests joined virtually) for the Town Hall meeting, La Crosse's Sister City in Crisis, Take Action for Peace in Kumbo. Congressman Ron Kind and others shared the history of La Crosse's partnership with Kumbo, Cameroon and attendees learned about the history of the current crisis in Cameroon and heard personal stories of the effects of the current crisis. A video chat took place between the mayor of Kumbo, Cameroon and Mayor Kabat of La Crosse, Kumbo's Sister City.

On May 10, a petition will be shared with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Luoyang – No rep present

La Crosse School District – No rep present

UWL – Have a group of students in Beijing today and they will be in Louyang next week. Working with LLFA on their fall visiting teacher, Dora. Have 8 other programs going abroad this summer. April Banquet was a big success. Working on an internationalization project as part of the strategic plan for the university.

Viterbo – No rep present

Western Technical College – No rep present however Friedberg is working on a project with Western

2 [19-0762](#)

People Fest Participation - Aug 4

The event will be Aug 4. They are asking for sponsorships, \$1000, \$550, \$200 or other amount. We encourage sister cities to participate and we'll have our banners there. We'll defer a vote on sponsorship until July meeting.

3 [19-0763](#) Sister City Dues

We'll defer this discussion to the July meeting.

4 [19-0764](#) Representation for Forde and Viterbo.

Art connected with president of Forde. They have not been active and they recommended we connect with the Rotary for a connection. Art connected with Jean Eddy at Viterbo. They just hired an ESL specialist that they will have attend the meetings. Art will connect with her to connect her to the online form to become a committee member.

Adjournment

Emelee made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Gary. Passed at 6:37 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.