



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### International Committee

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Monday, December 4, 2023

5:00 PM

Hedgehog Conference Room - City Hall/Zoom

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#### Call to Order

*The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m.*

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Irene Barmore, Michael De Yoe, Art Marson, Karolyn Bald, Chris Woodard, Mindy Wiesjahn, Jerry Berns, Thomas Monson

**Absent:** 4 - Melissa Giefer, Alyson Glenz, Lynn West, Dana Young

#### Mission of the International Committee

*Read by Art Marson*

#### Welcome and Introductions

#### Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bald, seconded by Wiesjahn, to approve minutes of September 25, 2023 with a correction clarifying that a group was going to Bantry and not a group coming to La Crosse. The motion carried

#### Treasurer's Report

*No report.*

#### Agenda Items:

##### [23-1402](#)

##### Budget Review

*No new items expended, still over \$4,000 in budget. We will have \$5,000 in our budget again for 2024.*

[23-1403](#)

## Requests for funding

*Thanks to others for their donations for the float.*

*Discussion on purchase of a display case in International Gardens. Needs to be investigated with Friends of the Gardens.*

**Motion by Bald, seconded by Monson, to approve up to \$500 for delegation travel in Bantry. Carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Berns, seconded by Barmore, to pay our Sister City dues of \$810. Carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Bald, seconded by Monson, to pay Viterbo Media \$27.19 for parade unit expense. Carried unanimously.**

[23-1404](#)

## Election of Officers for 2024

*Will be done in January. Need a chair, vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. Tom volunteered to be the treasurer in January. Especially need a Vice Chair.*

[23-1405](#)

## Oktoberfest Parade review

*Good turnout of people to walk with our unit. Float looked good. Appreciation to Ron Schlicht for use of his truck and donation of boards and magnets.*

[23-1406](#)

## Global Initiatives Week

*Several activities took place including Fulbright presentations, international luncheon, Eagles at night, etc.*

[23-1407](#)

## Website/brochure discussion

*Art met with Kerry from the City IT Dept. and she indicated the city is willing to host our sister cities site. Plan to do this instead of printing new brochures. Need to agree upon a standard format for each sister city's information. Each committee member needs to look at their page and make suggestions on the format. She will also develop QR codes for each sister city and for the international committee. Need to decide on contact information on each page. We need to look at calendar information ability for the site.*

*We also decided that we need to print some posters as discussed at the previous meeting. The proposal from Viterbo was reviewed. It was decided we should replace the Russian flag with the Dubna City Flag, adjust the locations of the flag placement on the map, and correct the spelling of La Crosse. It was reported that a Dubna City flag was on its way to La Crosse for placement in City Hall.*

**Motion by DeYoe, seconded by Monson, to approve up to \$200 for printing the posters (approximately 50 posters). Carried unanimously.**

23-1408

## Cultural Center idea

*It was suggested by Linda Pfaff representing Bantry and by a few others that with the southside library closing we might check into its use as a cultural center for our sister cities and other cultural groups in the area. Several cities have a location to highlight their sister city relationships and to locate information and items regarding these relationships. Our gifts and records are stored in many locations, the mayor's conference room and city hall, in person's homes, storage, etc. Several issues need to be considered -whether the City will keep or sell the building, other possible uses, how it fits in with the neighborhood, potential partnership opportunities (Historical Society, Ho Chunk), ability to use for research, etc. Also cost considerations and staffing.*

23-1409

## Next meeting date (January 29, 2024)

*It was decided to have our next meeting on January 8 at 5:00 at City Hall.*

23-1411

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

*UWL – Meeting with elementary schools.*

*Kumbo – Had a visit by some Sisters from Kumbo and they toured the international gardens.*

*Friedburg - Committee met at the Sparta Christmas market.*

*Forde – Have a delegation interested in coming to Oktoberfest next year. Tom will be going to Forde next summer.*

*Epinal – 2026 will be their 40th anniversary. Interested in acquisition of a large painting. New fundraiser next year. There is a new student group coming next year.*

*Junglinster – Recovering from delegation of students who visited in September. Setting up guidelines for students to visit Luxembourg next summer. Had a St. Nicholas Day pot luck. St. Francis had the first Christmas crèche 800 years ago and they are helping with Viterbo's celebration of this event.*

*Dubna - Chess tournaments are still ongoing. Dubna flag is in route to La Crosse. They will have a concert to celebrate Tchaikovsky's 800 birthday in May.*

*Bantry – They had a successful delegation visit to Bantry in October furthering their relationship. A \$1,000 check was presented to Hairy Henry Organization from the proceeds of the Coulee Hoolie Caeli.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion by Berns, seconded by Wiesjahn, to adjourn at 6:33. Carried unanimously.**