



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

International Committee

Monday, November 27, 2017

5:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Chairperson Sherry Olson called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Roll Call

Welcome and Introduction of Visitors:

Jordan Jones and Matt Tracy were observing for a Political Science 102 class at UW-L. Liesl Cruz attended for personal interest.

Present: 10 - Irene Barmore, Gale Kreibich, Jessica Olson, Michael De Yoe, Julie Welch, Sherry Olson, Vickie Unferth, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher, Emelee Volden

Absent: 2 - Todd Bye, Leah Durnin Hoover

Mission of the International Committee

Emelee 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 Officers

Jessica nominated Sherry Olson for chairperson, and Gale seconded the motion. Art moved that nominations be closed, and Jessica seconded the motion. Sherry was re-elected as chairperson.

Sherry nominated Jessica Olson for vice chair, and Gail seconded the motion. Art moved to close nominations, and Irene seconded. Jessica was re-elected as vice-chairperson. Heather nominated Art Marson for treasurer, and Sherry seconded the motion. Mike moved to close the nominations, and Sherry seconded the motion. Art was re-elected as treasurer.

Jessica nominated Vickie Unferth for secretary. Mike moved to close the nominations, and Irene seconded the motion. Vickie was re-elected as secretary.

Approval of Minutes

Art moved to approve the September minutes, and Jessica seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Art reported a current balance of \$3217.34 in the main account plus \$95.22 in the second account. He stated that the Bantry hotel bill might be outstanding. The report included Heather's reimbursement, but she had not received a check yet. Mike stated that he had a request tabled during the September meeting, to be revisited during this meeting.

Emelee asked about "SCI", which Art explained is "Sister Cities International". Irene asked about receipts for Epinal and Friedberg. Art said he had paid the Epinal bill but had not received anything for Friedberg. Irene said those receipts will come from Todd.

Mike moved to approve the report, and Heather seconded the report. Motion carried.

Agenda Items:

[17-1363](#)

Sister City Reports and Announcements

Bantry

Heather reported they are wrapping things up for the year. Their last meeting for the year will be a Christmas party Saturday, December 2 at the Eagles Club. Anyone is welcome. They raised \$1000 by selling Oktoberfest buttons. The Coulee Hoolie Ceili in March will raise money for the Sacred Ground mission for homeless people at a church in La Crosse as well as for a cancer support center in Bantry.

Dubna

Art reported that conditions in Russia have not improved. World Services will be closing their doors at the end of December; the sister city group and World Services have worked together for many years. Their event will be February 11, 2-4 pm, at Christ Episcopal Church, beginning with their annual meeting. The former mayor's son is studying at Western; he did a lecture on Russian design at the Pump House.

Epinal

Three committee members were in Epinal at the time of our meeting for St. Nicholas Day. The day is celebrated by lighting up the river with white light and a huge parade.

The group that came in September toured Organic Valley and enjoyed Downtown Mainstreet. Barbara Koiman did a tour for the Historic Preservation Society in French. They also went to Ho Chunk for fry bread.

Forde

Gale reported they are planning a vocational exchange for 2018.

Friedberg

Irene reported they were active with the well-attended Oktoberfest Heritage Day on the north side. She passed around a brochure about the Oktoberfest event at Lincoln Middle School. The group was well represented at the Global Initiatives Week kick-off. They will be singing Christmas carols at the Willows assisted living center. A group of students from Logan, Central, and Lincoln

took a field trip to Eau Claire for a concert by a young group touring through the American Association of Teachers of German.

Kumbo

Sherry is unable to attend the meetings due to her teaching schedule this semester. They are planning for an international garden. Sister Mark is in the U.S.; she does dental work in Kumbo. A going-away event for Sister Mark was being held the following Thursday, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, at the La Crosse Club, 250 Harborview Plaza. The group did fundraisers for the toilet handwashing stations and sent many books. They are now raising money for used dental chairs.

Mike added that the Kumbo garden would be behind the Hiawatha statue. There is a walkway from the Kumbo area to the Bantry area. He is familiar with the plans because his wife is on the garden committee.

Luoyang

Mike reported that four teachers arrived September 29 and had a well-attended banquet with good entertainment at UW-L. The teachers walked in the Oktoberfest parade the following day.

The China Town Hall was October 29 and was presented by Mayor Kabat and the delegation who went to Luoyang in June. Susan Rice from the Obama administration spoke by webcast.

Six Chinese delegates, including the deputy mayor and district leaders were in La Crosse November 16-17 as a follow-up to the June visit for a trade discussion. Jessica showed a painting by WenDong Wang that was a gift to the city.

Committee Term Expiration Recommendations (Art, Mike, Leah)

Art and Mike would like to stay on the committee. Sherry has not heard from Leah, who is the Western representative. Sherry believes Leah has attended one meeting since Sherry joined the committee. Sherry will call her.

Global Initiatives Week Recap

There was a good turnout and good food. There were 415 attendees compared to 800 something last year. Emelee stated that advertising started late due to mishaps with the website and a late grant award. Irene though the bi-lingual story telling was wonderful. Jean Luc and another individual presented a French book. Several committee members liked the food being interspersed.

Placemats were delivered to multiple restaurants. Sherry created a spreadsheet record of numbers provided to various places. She has placemats remaining.

Emelee went to the Saturday library event. She was surprised there were no signs outside of the library.

Logan High School had an international dance for which the language groups cooked.

Emelee wondered about aligning Global Initiatives Week with International Education Week.

Irene asked that Jenny Bolen be added to the GIW committee. Heather would also like to join.

Jessica said that Todd put up a beautiful display, and she apologized for taking it down early. She put it back up when she realized her error and took it down again the following Friday.

Heather suggested spending money remaining in our budget. A discussion took place about taking a vote if it is not on the agenda. Jessica suggested a motion to amend the expenditure decision made at the September meeting. Heather made a motion to reconsider printing costs for promotional purposes. Art seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Art made a motion to amend the placemat/poster expenditure to include printing of banners or other promotional materials. Julie seconded the motion. The motion to amend carried.

Heather moved to amend the amount allocated to \$2500. Emelee seconded the motion. Motion carried for the second amendment.

Jessica moved to approve the expenditure as amended, and Heather seconded the motion. Discussion included suggestions for permanent banners for City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce and 75 posters larger than the placemats. The motion to approve the expenditure as amended carried. A marketing committee will include Jessica, Heather, Julie, Sherry, and Todd. Heather will take the lead.

2018 Budget Discussion

Polly requested a budget. Jessica motioned to create a budget, and Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried. Art will create a budget and submit to Polly in Finance.

Jessica made a motion to move the request from the table. Sherry seconded the motion. Mike explained that the meeting to introduce La Crosse to Luoyang city officials was rescheduled several times. The La Crosse Luoyang Friendship Committee paid expenses, and they asked to recoup \$500. Mike will gather receipts to submit to Polly. Jessica moved to approve the \$500 expenditure, and Heather seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sister City International Information/Profile Manager

A person was needed to access the directory, receive materials, and update information. Heather volunteered.

Adjournment

Jessica moved to adjourn, and Sherry seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, January 22.

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.