



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

International Committee

Monday, September 25, 2017

5:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Vice Chair Jessica Olson called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Irene Barmore, Todd Bye, Jessica Olson, Michael De Yoe, Leah Durnin Hoover, Julie Welch, Art Marson, Heather Dutcher, Emelee Volden

Excused: 1 - Sherry Olson

Absent: 2 - Vickie Unferth, Gale Kreibich

Election of Officers

Mike motioned to refer the election of officers for 60 days. Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mission of the International Committee

Julie 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.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary's July Minutes

Irene corrected the number of Friedberg student visitors from 25 to 19. Irene moved and Art seconded approving the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Art reported that the latest payments were \$315 for printing brochures and \$780 for Sister City dues.

Michael stated that per Heidi and the current spending guidelines, the Mayor gets up to \$1500 for travel expenses. He spent \$1410 for his travel, leaving \$90. He owed \$185 to Ron and Angela Schlict for expenses in China, so he gave them \$90 from the committee budget, and the remainder came from the Mayor's office budget.

Gary suggested that the committee create a budget again although it has not been requested. He volunteered to go with whoever is submitting it.

The spending year ends December 31. Jessica's impression from her conversation with Heidi is that the money will be somewhat equally disbursed. Art clarified that money is not carried over to the next budget year. The budget for 2016 was \$3000, of which \$1766.53 was spent. Heather moved to approve the treasurer report, and Irene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda Items:

Sister City Reports and Announcements

Bantry

Heather reported that Irishfest was a big success. They came within \$200 of raising the same as the previous year, which set a record. The representatives from Bantry Seafood were there. The group is doing a fundraiser of selling Oktoberfest buttons at two of the three windows at the festival. They are gearing up for Global Initiatives Week.

Dubna

Art reported that life in Dubna is not going well. Funding for international activities has been drastically cut. World Services has decided to close at the end of the year and will have a public celebration Sunday, October 15, at the Black River Beach Community Center, at 4 pm. People in Dubna are paranoid of being seen talking with someone from the U.S. The annual meeting will be the second Saturday in February.

Epinal

Irene reported that the Epinal delegation, including four members from City Hall, will be in La Crosse October 12 to 15. On Friday, they will visit Organic Valley, and the Saturday focus will be on Downtown Mainstreet.

Friedberg

Irene reported that 19 students and 2 teachers were recently in La Crosse. They took a boat trip sponsored by Gail Cleary, attended a football game, and collected items for the Sister City booth at the Christmas Festival.

Forde

No report.

Kumbo

No report.

Luoyang

Mike reported that a delegation was expected in August, but they had visa problems so the trip was postponed indefinitely. A principal and four teachers were arriving that Thursday and staying until Saturday. They had all been in La Crosse previously, and their schedule included a Friday night banquet. Mike also mentioned a China Town Hall webcast coming up on October 24.

2017 Draft Funding Guidelines.

Attachments: [2017 Draft Funding Guidelines](#)
 [2017 Funding Guidelines Final Draft 07.24.2017](#)
 [Funding Guidelines approved 9 25 17](#)

Global Initiatives Week Update

Irene stated that the placemats were most effective as PR, merchants should be asked to put them in windows, and they should be made larger as posters. Julie stated that teachers would love to have them. Heather shared a suggestion she heard last year that a picture from each place be added. She has Kate's files (the person who previously worked on them). Irene said "bienvenue" is missing an "e". Julie said the current placemat includes names of the Sister Cities, flags, and maps. Irene said she has the list of who distributed placemats in the past. Julie asked about copies of the schedule, and Emelee said a UW-L student was working on them.

Vickie asked whether anyone had projects for a possible international service day on November 4 or 11. No one had projects, but a suggestion was made that November 11 be avoided since it is Veteran's Day.

Funding Request for Luoyang

Mike's request was for \$1500 for the teacher visit September 29 to October 2. He amended it to \$500. Art made a motion to approve up to \$500, and Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Funding Request for Epinal

Irene submitted a request for \$500 for hotel for the four official delegates coming October 15. The budget included \$250 for meals. Irene amended the request to \$800 total. Emelee moved to approve \$800, and Art seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Funding Request for Friedberg

Todd submitted a request for \$500 to defray expenses for the Friedberg student delegation visit in September. Mike moved to approve up to \$500, and Irene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Member Term Expiration/Vacancy Recommendations for Dubna, Luoyang, WTC

Julie moved to refer the discussion for 60 days, and Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Placemat Reprinting Discussion

Investigating a larger format was discussed, and Julie would like 75 for teachers, possibly laminated. Art moved to spend up to \$800 for posters laminated or not laminated, and Julie seconded the motion. Motion carried. (Note that the words "placemats" and "posters" were used interchangeably during the discussion.)

Adjournment

Julie moved to adjourn, and Mike seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, November 27.

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.