



# 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, March 25, 2024

5:00 PM

Cliffwood Conference Room

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### Call to Order

*Chair Art Marson called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m.*

### Roll Call

*Members marked excused were unable to attend due to technical difficulties with Zoom.*

**Present:** 7 - Irene Barmore, Michael De Yoe, Art Marson, Chris Woodard, Jerry Berns, Dana Young, Thomas Monson

**Excused:** 6 - Melissa Giefer, Karolyn Bald, Alyson Glenz, Lynn West, Mindy Wiesjahn, Karena Norton

### 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 Introductions

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion by Monson, second by Young, to APPROVE the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting. Carried.**

### Treasurer's Report

*Monson reported that the budget balance remains at \$5,000. \$810 is allocated to sister city dues and \$500 is allocated for each sister city committee. Adjustments can be made during the year as needed.*

**Agenda Items:**[24-0449](#)

## Summer Travel

- *A student group is planning to visit Junglinster in June. The Mayor is planning to join them and visit the nearby cities of Epinal and Friedberg as well.*
- *Tom Monson will be visiting our sister city in Norway this summer.*

[24-0450](#)

## Funding Requests

- *Funds were requested for recognition of participants of the bi-lingual education program, perhaps a dinner or a scholarship. Due to a need for more information the item was tabled.*

[24-0451](#)

## Website Update

- *Members were reminded that Kerry Gloede in the City IT Department would assist and make changes to the Sister City Website.*
- *It was decided not to include phone numbers in directories, only an email contact information.*
- *Potentially we could have a calendar of events.*
- *It was decided we should have a completed draft of each cities webpage for review in May.*

[24-0452](#)

## International Banquet

- *April 20. Global citizen showcase from 5:00p – 6:00p prior to the banquet. Epinal and Friedberg will have a table. Others welcome. Banquet tickets are \$35 and committee members are invited to attend.*

[24-0453](#)

## Cultural Center Discussion

- *The southside library will not be an appropriate site for sister cities to have international display or cultural information. We will continue to look for an appropriate site, perhaps at one of the universities, library, or other location.*

[24-0454](#)

## Sister City Correspondence

- *Marson indicated he receives many emails from Sister Cities International. He wants members to be aware of and use information as appropriate. He will forward selected emails and will share password information to those who want to use the site.*

[24-0455](#)

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

*Bantry:*

*\*The LBFA 8th annual Coulee Hoolie Ceili was a success. Raised much more than the past, but final numbers are not in yet. LBFA will have a small delegation arriving from Bantry for participation in Irishfest August 9-11. Councilman Danny Collins will be one of the visitors.*

*Epinal:*

- \*The revised website material is nearly ready for Kerry Gloede.*
- \* We have had a link to a page on Facebook for the student exchange, but the price is rising and we are seeking an inexpensive platform for nonprofits.*
- \* The Epinal/La Crosse Literacy Project, sponsored by Rotary Clubs, was a success. 7-10 year olds at Northside Elementary read a book, then created an artwork, which we, LECE board members, had fun judging for prizes.*
- \* LECE will have a booth at the Global Citizens showcase before the UW-L International Banquet, April 20.*
- \* Mayor Reynolds has been officially invited & will be in Epinal June 12-14.*
- \* The annual wine tasting fundraiser will be at Le Chateau August 21.*

*Dubna:*

- \*Chess project continues.*
- \*A Dubna reunion concert will be held at Capella on May 11 featuring the new Dubna Trio and Russian Music.*

*Forde:*

- \*Tom will be going to Forde this summer*
- \*A delegation from Forde is interested in coming to La Crosse in September 2025*

*Kumbo:*

- \*Construction of a new structure for a Resource Computer Center was completed. The Computer Resource Center provided expanded computer training facilities at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Shisong. This replaces a shipping container that had been used.*
- \*A project entitled Hearts to Schools Revisited provided needed renovations for three primary schools in Northwest Cameroon. \$122,000 was raised to renovate 18 classrooms with repairs to damaged walls, replacement of roofs and doors. in addition a library is a significant new resource for students.*
- \*The story behind both project reflects the community determination to provide a better future for their citizens, and the important role the global community can play.*
- \*Attendance at schools has wonderfully improved success rates. Also student success rate for passing the all important six grade test which allows students to go on for further education has greatly improved.*
- \*Sr. Theodosia, the TSSF superior, will be visiting La Crosse after Easter.*

*Friedberg:*

*LAGRA will host a table at the upcoming International Banquet*  
*La Crosse School District approved a request for student exchange group with Friedberg. La Crosse German students will be hosting this fall and then will plan to visit Friedberg summer 2025*

*LAGRA is working on updating information on the city website.*

*Luoyang:*

*\*Visiting scholar at UWL is living on campus*

*\*China town hall webcast will be held on April 9 featuring the Assistant Secretary of State on US China relations.*

*Junglinster: No report*

*School District:*

*\*Central HS had international food at a recent Family Night*

*\*For Diversity in Reading Month there is a story walk installed along the trail between Chad Erickson Park and State Road Elementary School. It's about a Native American girl going to a powwow.*

*\*The Hmong Heritage program in the Hmong Community Center. All fourth grade classes participate in a reenactment of the journey from a Laos village, fleeing through the jungle, crossing the Mekong River, and applying for asylum in the US in a refugee camp.*

*\*In April all 2nd grade classes attend a La Crosse History field trip, going to the Hixon House, Poage Park, and La Crosse Heritage Center*

*\*Students visiting UWL from Fukuoka, Japan visited Emerson and State Road to teach about Japanese writing and origami.*

*\*Spanish teacher: Spanish class is creating Huevos Pintos (painted eggs) and Alfombras (carpets) based on Semana Santa (Holy Week). Students learned about products and practices during Semana Santa in Latin America and Spain and are depicting them on their eggs.*

*\*A Chinese Exchange Teacher was at Spence on March 22nd meeting with every classroom to speak on different topics.*

*\*Logan Spanish class students are doing LinguaMeeting which is a virtual coaching session with a native speaker in a Spanish speaking country. They have 30 minute chats about once a month*

*UWL:*

*\*Cultural Coffee Hours - 5:30pm, Hall of Nations - FREE & Open to Community*

*March 26th - Topic: Languages*

*April 16th - Topic: Food Culture*

*\*59th Annual International Banquet - April 20, The Bluffs, UWL Student Union  
5-6 pm - Global Citizenship Showcase: Seeking proposals for posters and table displays for the event - highlighting international research, projects, and experiences.  
OPEN to the public & free!*

*6-9 pm - Intl Banquet with food representing Uganda, Bangladesh, Belgium, Ethiopian, India, Germany*

*\*Ethnographic Film Series - Global Forces, Locally Lived. - 4-6 pm, UWL Student Union Theatre - FREE & Open to the Public*

*April 11th: Kotla Walks: Performing Locality*

*This film series focuses on documentaries that show how wider global forces are experienced by people in their daily lives. It is free and open to the public. Free popcorn for all attendees!*

*Viterbo: No report.*

*Western: Still looking for a representative.*

**Next Meeting:**

*Monday, June 3, 5:00 p.m. Change of date as the regular meeting falls on Memorial Day.*

**Adjournment**

**Motion made by Barmore, second by Burns, to adjourn at 6:29p. Carried unanimously.**