

City of Sheboygan  
2018-02-01

AVAPML5C4365

CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEETHursday, February 1, 2018

Chair Julie Vandersteen called the meeting to order at 5: 15 pm in the 3 rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Julie Vandersteen, Sarah Schwefel, James Graf, Yolanda Graf, Anna Schoen, Grazia Perrella, Henry Schoen, Charlene Hinze, Mark Hinze, Rich Miesfeld, Carolyn Miesfeld, and Ruth Gerstner.

Others present: Mayor Mike Vandersteen and Molly Dewane.

Members excused: Jane Kautzer, Keary Kautzer, and Rich Miesfeld.

Members unexcused: Alderperson Andrew Schneider.

Correspondence: We were contacted by the Mead Public Library to inquire if we knew anyone who could translate postcards that they had received from Esslingen children. As it turned out they were able to find someone very quickly and ended up not needing our assistance. We will have copies of the postcards to view at the next MIC meeting. We received a letter from Dr. Jurgen Zieger stating that he is in the process of determining if it will be possible for them to visit Sheboygan in 2018. He will let us know when a decision is made. Sarah will bring a copy of his letter to the next MIC meeting.

Minutes: Motion made by Yolanda Graf, seconded by Charlene Hinze to approve minutes of January 4, 2018 meeting. Motion passes. All ayes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION Appointment of new members: Carolyn will reach out to some contacts with People To People to inquire about possible new members for the MIC. Summer concert (target date is Thursday, July 19) and donation from JMKAC: We have received a \$2000 check from JMKAC for our 2017 volunteer efforts. Mike is having ongoing discussions with JMKAC about the feasibility of MIC to organize a concert on July 19, one downside is that JMKAC doesn t have indoor space available on that date if it happens to be raining. If the MIC opts not to pursue the July 19 concert, Julie has offered to contact 3 Sheeps to inquire about doing a fundraiser brat fry at their facility, date TBD. Exchange Student Brat Fry (at Deland Home on Sunday, August 12): Carolyn reported that all plans are on track and will be meeting next week to continue the planning process. Chicago trip for exchange students (\$500 stipend): Motion by Yolanda to approve that the MIC provide \$500, second by Henry. Motion passes. All ayes. Planning for Esslingen Fest 2018 (possible dates: Sun. Sept. 30 or Sun. Oct. 14): The date will be finalized in April after the Packers schedule comes out because we don t want to conflict with a football game. Rich

has contacted 3 Sheeps to pencil in both dates and he will follow up with them when the final date is selected. Henry will book the Ryan Kautzer Band. Julie would like us to make more corporate donation requests this year as a means to boost sponsorship income, Julie and Sarah will work on this. A possible fundraiser idea Mike discussed is having MIC organize a German cooking class at Relish and then sell those items at Esslingen Fest, Mike will contact Uta about the possibility of being the cooking instructor. Planning for foreign exchange student party (target date is Monday, Nov. 12): Jim has reserved the Elk s Lodge and he will be submitting a request to have the fee waived. Discuss relationship with Tsubame sister city: Julie reported that she spoke with Pam Gottsacker but wasn t able to get much information. Grazia and Mary had emailed with Tsubame s Mayor Tsutomu Suzuki in July 2017, Grazia stated that Mayor Suzuki is very interested in reactivating the Sister City relationship. Mayor Suzuki stated that they have a person in place who is in charge of this matter and that we should discuss what activity we start with including the project which exchanges goodwill ambassadors between Sheboygan and Tsubame. Through Molly s experience with Japanese Sister Cities, she said they are very formal when they do cultural exchanges. She suggested that we consider sending them some items that represent us such as a flag from the state capitol, a Wisconsin Blue Book, or a sausage gift box. Molly and Grazia will work together to communicate with Mayor Suzuki in the process of establishing a plan for a goodwill ambassador.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Due to several of the committee members having schedule conflicts on March 1, the next meeting will be on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 5:15 pm in the 3 rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

Adjourn: At 5: 45 pm motion by Henry Schoen, seconded by Yolanda Graf to adjourn. Motion passes. All ayes.