

**CITY OF SHEBOYGAN
MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 3, 2022**

Chairperson Rich Miesfeld called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm in Conference Room 106 at City Hall (828 Center Avenue, Sheboygan) and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members present: Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Sarah Schwefel, Alderperson Betty Ackley, Annie King-Close, Monica Hart (arrived 5:22), Deidre Martinez, Pete Janssen, Nick Laurie, Carolyn Miesfeld, Rich Miesfeld, Cole Phillips, Dane Schaefer, and Deb Sabol-Williams (arrived 5:18).

Members not in attendance: Dana Elmzen and Tony Rammer.

Guests in attendance: Mary Koczan (virtual).

Correspondence: Mayor Sorenson said that David Gallienti has connected with Katrin regarding the Esslingen University agreement.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of December 1, 2021 meeting; all ayes and motion passes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. **Trip to Esslingen.** Mayor Sorenson he has a meeting planned for February 17 with Katrin and Jasmine to discuss new travel dates for this fall. After he talks to them we will work with Geri Hiebing to get travel plans in place, so stay tuned!
2. **Recap of Exchange Student Get-together – December 1.** The consensus is that we liked having it as a casual gathering with charcuterie and also being at City Hall. In the past we have done a sit-down dinner with pizza at the Elks Lodge, we are ready to depart from that type of event. The Council Chambers space was pretty full considering there were 10 exchange students, but they each had several family members with them. So if there is a larger number of exchange students in the future, we might need to consider a larger venue such as the future Uptown Social building after the renovation is complete.
3. **Esslingen Fest – Sunday, October 9.** Depending on what date the Esslingen trip ends up being, we might need to consider changing the date because if we're traveling right before then it would be difficult to coordinate both things at the same time. We can't full determine that until the Esslingen trip is finalized. We might consider moving Esslingen Fest to May such that it would swap timeframes with our originally scheduled Esslingen trip; we'll discuss further at our March committee meeting.
4. **Esslingen Sister City updates.** Mayor Sorenson mentioned that we should start thinking the next time that we will host the Esslingen delegates in Sheboygan – this is in the very preliminary stages because we don't know if this will happen in 2023 or 2024. He suggested that they could come during July 4th so they can see what our summer celebrations are like. We will continue to discuss this topic in the future.
5. **Tsubame Sister City updates and sub-committee.** Mayor Sorenson mentioned that the plaque that he mailed to Tsubame in December was received, but he hasn't gotten any email correspondence from them for a while. He also emailed them last week sharing info about the video from Rahm Emanuel who is the new ambassador to Japan (<https://youtu.be/IW9WeKido6s>). Cole said he feels that we need to send a delegation to Tsubame to solidify our relationship.
6. **Future plans and ideas.**
 - Mayor Sorenson said that our Public Works Department is in the process of updating the signs entering the City that currently list Esslingen as our Sister City – these will be replaced with signs that list Tsubame and Esslingen.
 - In the past our committee has hosted a cookout for the middle school exchange students the first weekend in August at the Deland Home. Generally the kids have been pretty bored with this picnic, so we're looking to revamp the event. Nick mentioned an idea of doing an event with SEAS, he said that he will reach out to Whitney. Carolyn said that she is working with Paula Dick about this – she is the contact person at People To People.
 - Other fundraising ideas: volunteer at the JMKAC Levitt Amp concerts, Deidre mentioned that Acuity pays volunteers to work at their summer event.
 - Questions were asked about how much money we aim to fundraise as well as how much money has been

spent on hosting delegates in the past and how much the travel stipend has been for MIC members in the past. Sarah and Ryan will pull together the numbers for discussion at the March committee meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 3, 2022.

Adjourned at 5:59 pm.