

City of Sheboygan  
2021-11-04

C8CLCE55DAA6

CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEETHursday, November 4, 2021

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: Sarah Schwefel, Dana Elmzen, Nick Laurie, Carolyn Miesfeld, Monica Hart, Rich Miesfeld, Tony Rammer, Pete Janssen, Cole Phillips, and Deb Sabol-Williams.

Members not in attendance: Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Annie King-Close, Alderperson Betty Ackley, Dane Schaefer, and Deidre Martinez.

Guests in attendance: Mary Koczan.

Correspondence: None.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of October 7, 2021 meeting; all ayes and motion passes.

#### ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Trip to Esslingen in 2022. Rich, Carolyn, Ryan, and Sarah met with Geri Hiebing at Travel Leaders on Monday, November 1. From there an interest form was developed and Sarah sent that out to all of the MIC members and Carolyn sent it to the People to People members please be sure to complete this form by 5: 00 pm on Thursday, November 11. Carolyn inquired about providing the info to the past MIC members, Sarah said that she will email the interest form to them on Friday. Carolyn inquired about if other City of Sheboygan employees are interested in the trip, Sarah said she would talk to Ryan on Friday about sending the info to Department Heads and Alderpersons. Current members of MIC will each get a \$500 travel stipend. Youth Symphony Exchange with Esslingen Josh Hernday. Josh had a last-minute schedule conflict that came up, so he emailed an update to Sarah to present to the MIC on his behalf. Myself and Molly Lieberman (our youth symphony director) met with Katrin and Jochen Volle (director of Esslingen's community music academy) on Monday, October 25 to discuss the viability of a biennial student exchange revolving around our respective youth music programs. After a very fruitful discussion, we concluded that we would like to start this endeavor with a smaller student size of 6 - 10 students rather than that of our entire youth symphony which could be upwards of 50 students. The next steps would be to meet with our respective teachers/directors to assess their interest in having their students participate, and then do a broad preliminary survey of student interest. Following this, the next step would be to meet in person. They mentioned that a Sheboygan trip to Esslingen was already in the

works for this coming May and that myself and Molly could possibly also participate in this trip so that we can all meet to discuss this program further. As of right now, we would not anticipate this happening during the current 2021 / 22 scholastic year, and instead we would look forward to starting it in 2022 /

23. Whether we would go over there first, or vice versa, will be determined at a later date once more details are realized. Recap of Esslingen Fest Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 3 Sheeps. The event was very successful the committee pulled together very well! Sarah gave a summary of the financials stating that although we don't have the final donation amount from 3 Sheeps yet, we can estimate it based on past years because they have donated \$1 per glass of beer sold during the event. We are anticipating that the event income is about \$5,500 and the expenses are about \$1,500, so the profit is about \$4,000. The decrease in expenses this year were due to JoAnn Sorenson donating the potato salad (thank you JoAnn!) and also not doing the pre-sale raffle tickets because. The benefit of eliminating the pre-sale raffle tickets is that we didn't have to get the \$25 license from the state, we didn't have to pay \$54 for printing costs, and we didn't have to pay out \$75, \$50, and \$25 to the winners. Carolyn was very happy about how everyone on the committee pulled together and worked hard, she has a list of names that she would like to send thank-you cards to. Dana volunteered to write the thank-you cards. Deb suggested that next year we should create more displays that explain what the International Committee is and also add more interactive features like the face cut-out sign and perhaps make a backdrop that people can pose in front of for photos. Deb suggested doing a dog parade because there were quite a few people with their dogs there in costume. Deb suggested having a coloring sheet to hand out to small kids and informational flyer about People to People to encourage the kids to pursue being exchange students when they get older. Esslingen Sister City updates. All the current participants of Coffee Talks are enjoying it and there are discussions of increasing the number of participants. Tsubame Sister City updates and sub-committee. Cole reported that they'd like to coordinate a virtual meeting. Nick mentioned that they want to talk to Mayor Sorenson about setting that up. Gifts for high school exchange students. Sarah contacted the high schools in Sheboygan and there are three exchange students at South, there are five at North, and there aren't any at Lutheran or Christian. Nick suggested hosting the exchange students at City Hall during/after our December 2 meeting so they could be involved with decorating the Christmas tree. Sarah said that we could reserve the Council Chambers and have dinner there starting at 6:00 pm. Dana will work on pricing out food options. Sarah will invite the host families and exchange students. Promoting other Sheboygan international relationships. Rich mentioned that we've done some posts on our Facebook page in the past of other international relationships such as St. Peter Lutheran Church and Apopa, El Salvador. Let's continue to brainstorm on ideas of more international relationships that we can promote. Future plans and ideas. Cole asked about if we might be interested in having more Sister Cities in the future, how we would go about doing that. Sarah stated that Mayor Sorenson has looked into the Sister Cities International organization and they could possibly be able to assist us with connecting us with other cities that would be interested. But to reiterate, we must focus on our current Sister City relationships, especially when it comes to re-establishing communication with Tsubame, so if we were to pursue adding more Sister Cities that wouldn't be in the near-term.

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 2, 2021 including decorating City Hall Christmas tree.

Adjourned at 6: 08 pm.