

City of Sheboygan
2021-09-02

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CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEETHursday, September 2, 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: Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Sarah Schwefel, Annie King-Close, Dana Elmzen, Nick Laurie, Carolyn Miesfeld, Rich Miesfeld, Tony Rammer, Pete Janssen, Cole Phillips, Dane Schaefer, Deidre Martinez, and Deb Sabol-Williams.

Members not in attendance: Alderperson Betty Ackley and Monica Hart.

Election of officer: Mayor Sorenson made a motion to nominate Annie and Pete as co-vice chairpersons, 2 nd by Tony; all ayes and motion passes.

Correspondence:

Mayor Sorenson received a package recently from Tsubame with a gift of stainless-steel sake glasses. Mayor Sorenson met with former Mayor Jim Schramm today and he gave Ryan a photo book that was created by a past member of the MIC that had photos from the late 1990 s through the early 2000 s it was passed around the room for everyone to look at.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of August 5, 2021 meeting; all ayes and motion passes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Esslingen Sister City updates. Mayor Sorenson will be traveling to Germany to attend the farewell event for Mayor Jurgen at the end of September and the plan to travel is still on schedule. Trip to Esslingen in 2022. On August 23 Carolyn, Ryan, and Sarah met to start discussions for planning this trip. The possible dates are in the range of May 9 through May 27, that avoids Mother s Day and Memorial Day weekend. We are looking at doing 3 - 4 days in Esslingen

and a few days for possibly a river cruise or other side trips. Carolyn and Dana will work together with Geri Heibing at Travel Leaders and will ask her to provide two timeframe/pricing options so they can present that info to the MIC members. Esslingen Fest Sunday, October 10, 2021. Rich has a spreadsheet of past raffles that he will send to Sarah so she can distribute it to all the MIC members. Sarah encouraged everyone to input their raffle items into the Google Spreadsheet in order to keep track of everything. Mayor Sorenson encourages everyone to make baked goods, preferably make them individually wrapped. Rich has done been in charge of the 50 / 50 raffle in the past, he is happy to do so again, Dana said she will help him. Deidre suggested not doing \$1 tickets for the 50 / 50 raffle, she said to do \$5 per ticket and \$20 for 5 tickets. To organize all of the raffle items we ll get together on Tuesday, October 5 at 5: 30 pm at City Hall. Anyone who has raffle items may drop them off in the Mayor s Office during business hours and we ll hold onto them in the meantime. Sarah will print event posters and email a PDF to the MIC members. We will do advertising in The Beacon, The Sun, and on Facebook. Reminder to everyone to share the FB event! Cole brought up the question about having an informational table/display at Esslingen Fest about the MIC, the group was in consensus that this is something we should do. Cole will provide a supply of the 3 D printed cranes to be included in the raffle baskets. Dana and Dane will work on a flyer to explain what the MIC is and present it to the group, this can be used at the informational table/display. Esslingen Coffee Talks update from Annie King-Close. The program is continuing and the conversation pairs continue to meet every few weeks or so. The meeting schedules for the Esslingen people have been a bit more challenging lately because of their work schedules. Tsubame Sister City updates and sub-committee. Annie reported that she and Betty and Cole haven t gotten back together to meet since several months ago, she would like to set a standard recurring meeting time to get it on everyone s calendar. Mayor Sorenson said that one of his goals is to send a plaque to Tsubame before the end of this year in recognition of this year being the 25 -year anniversary of our Sister City relationship. Mayor Sorenson would like to make arrangements in the future for doing a group video chat with Tsubame and all the MIC members. Promoting other Sheboygan international relationships. Dane said he feels that because many of the MIC members are still quite new and we have Esslingen Fest coming up soon, we might want to put this on the backburner for now. In a few months we might be in a better position to focus on this. Annie mentioned that she has an idea about reaching out to and/or facilitating conversations with local ex-pats. Future plans and ideas. Sarah mentioned that Josh from the Sheboygan Symphony had planned to attend today s meeting, but something came up last minute and he wasn t able to attend. He s planning to attend our October meeting and he will provide info about his idea to have a symphony exchange between Esslingen and Sheboygan. Mayor Sorenson mentioned that he is looking into using funds from the Mayor s Office budget to join the Sister City International organization, the cost is about \$600 annually.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 7, 2021.

Adjourned at 6: 25 pm.