

City of Sheboygan  
2021-08-05

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CITY OF SHEBOYGANMAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEETHursday, August 5, 2021

Mayor Sorenson 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 in-person: Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Sarah Schwefel, Alderperson Betty Ackley, Dana Elmzen, Rich Miesfeld, Tony Rammer, Pete Janssen, Dane Schaefer, and Monica Hart.

Members not in attendance: Annie King-Close, Nick Laurie, Deidre Martinez, Carolyn Miesfeld, Cole Phillips, and Deb Sabol-Williams.

Election of officers: Dane made a motion to nominate Rich Miesfeld as chairperson, Dana seconded, all approved. We are tabling the election for the vice chairperson until the next MIC meeting.

Correspondence:

Sarah emailed with Josh Hernday from the Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra and he wasn't available to attend our meeting today, but he has it on his calendar to attend our meeting on September 2.

Minutes: Motion to approve minutes of July 1, 2021 meeting; motion passes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Esslingen Sister City updates. Mayor Sorenson will be attending the farewell event for Mayor Jorgen at the end of September. The new mayor of Esslingen has been elected, his name is Matthias Klopfer. Katrin has also provided info about the possibility of an international chess tournament with the Esslingen Chess Club and the Sheboygan chess players they are scheduled to have an online meeting with each other the week of August

9. Trip to Esslingen in 2022. Carolyn has continued to be in contact with Discovery Travel. The consensus of the discussion of the group is to aim for May 2022. Ryan and Sarah will reach out to Katrin to inquire about if they have specific dates that they prefer. Esslingen Fest Sunday, October 10, 2021. The Ryan Kautzer Band (3 -piece) is booked for a 4 -hour set for \$550, he asked what time frame we want. The group consensus is for him to perform 11: 30 am to 3: 30 pm. Please note this year will be the 5 th annual Esslingen Fest since the 4 th annual took place in 2019, we are skipping counting 2020 since the event didn't happen that year. Betty will ask for tickets from the Green Bay Blizzard. Dane and Tony said they will assist with getting raffle items. Sarah will email the volunteer sign up list to the MIC members. Esslingen Coffee Talks update from Annie King-Close. Sarah reported on Annie's behalf. Hopefully everyone had a chance to read the email that Sarah forwarded on August 3 from Katrin with a copy of the article from the Esslingen newspaper about the Coffee Talks program. Sarah spoke to Karley from the Sheboygan Fire Department to get clarification about the status of the Coffee Talks program with regard to a question that was brought up at our July 1 MIC meeting about if/when staff from the Sheboygan Fire Department will participate. Karley said that there are currently more people in Sheboygan interested in participating than there are for Esslingen fire department staff for them to be matched up with, and most of the Sheboygan people are involved with People To People. Also, the current phase of the program is aimed at facilitating general conversations. It is possible that the program may later move to a second phase that is aimed at more technical conversations related to emergency service and fire department topics, at that point there could be opportunity for Sheboygan fire department staff to participate. Tsubame Sister City updates and sub-committee. Mayor Sorenson had a video call with Mayor Suzuki on Thursday, July 29 there were many other people from the Tsubame City Hall in the background as well. The meeting went very well and Mayor Suzuki said it was the most exciting day in their City Hall in the past year! They showed Ryan all of the cutlery that they make which is being used in the Olympics. Ryan recently mailed them a postcard and they were very excited to receive it. Ryan would like to plan for another Zoom call in the future that involves the entire MIC group. Annie, Betty, and Cole started working as a sub-committee earlier this year and aim to resume their efforts in September when their schedules allow. Promoting other Sheboygan international relationships. The Consulate General of Great Britain is interested in coming to visit Sheboygan. Ryan will invite the Consulate General of Germany to attend Esslingen Fest. Future plans and ideas. For the new people on the committee, Sarah explained that in past years we had hosted a picnic on the 2 nd Sunday of August at the Deland Home for the middle school exchange students. That of course isn't happening this year because of ongoing limitations for exchange students, but there are only two students doing the exchange program and Paula from People To People is planning to host a pool party at her house. Rich said he will share info about the plan for the pool party as soon as he knows more. Another thing that the MIC has hosted in past years is a reception and dinner at the Elk's Lodge for the high school exchange students typically on the 2 nd Monday in November. We didn't have that event in 2020 of course, but there were two exchange students who were already here on a multi-year program, so we put together gift bags for them and invited them to attend our MIC meeting in November that year. As of right now we know of two students that are here through People To People but won't be able to contact the high school guidance counselors until school is in session. We can discuss this further at our September meeting. Dana mentioned that she knows of two people in Sheboygan who are hosting high school exchange students this fall.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 2, 2021.

Adjourned at 5: 56 pm.