

CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, December 14, 2023

Persons with disabilities who need accommodations to attend this meeting should contact the Mayor's Office, (920) 459-3317. Persons other than commission, committee, and board members who wish to participate remotely shall provide notice to the Mayor's Office at 920-459-3317 at least 24 hours before the meeting so that the person may be provided a remote link for that purpose.

OPENING OF MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Alexandria King-Close 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, Vice Chair Peter Janssen, Vice Chair Lisa Salgado, Sarah Engel-Streicher, Kara Ottum, Veronica Valdez, Mickenzie Petrie, Brittney Wagner and Cole Phillips

Members not in attendance: Alderperson Zach Rust, Nicole Brown, Alex Vanden Huevel, Deb Sabol-Williams, Tony Rammer, and Deidre Martinez

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Correspondence

Mayor Suzuki from Tsubame sent us a holiday card.

MINUTES

4. Approval of October 5th, 2023 minutes.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Esslingen Fest

Sarah put together policy and procedures. The Mayor, Annie, and co-vice chairs Lisa and Peter will need to review this and revise it to suit the MIC.

Since TEAMS is not currently available, Kara volunteered to organize the information so we can move forward. We need detailed lists of how many of each item to order. **Peter will email Kara the list of ideas we had and if Veronica could send her the past supply order list and the inventory list that was completed this fall. Kara will try to have this done by our next MIC meeting in January.**

In January we will need to reserve Three Sheeps or other venue.

NEXT ESSLINGENFEST MEETING POTENTIALLY JANUARY 11, 2024 AT 5:15PM with Veronica's approval after checking the schedule.

6. Tsubame

Tsubame posted artwork sent to them from a Sheboygan school for their cultural fair.

The Sheboygan Press will publish a letter we received from Mayor Tsutomu Suzuki.

December 18, 2023, Mayor Sorenson & Veronica will be having a meeting with Tsubame regarding the delegation that will be coming to Sheboygan July 31- August 8, 2024 and will plan the details. They will work with People to People and area schools.

If you are interested in coffee talks and have not done so already, **send your bio and photo to Veronica by email. List topics you are interested in talking about.**

We can work with the Lakeland Japanese student association for help with the delegation and coffee talks.

Mickenzie has contacts at South who are willing to help with the delegation, if they can get a timeframe and more details about the type of commitment.

Lisa has a Japanese contact that might be able to help with translation for coffee talks. **Lisa will put her in contact with Cole, who will meet with her about the possibility of helping us.**

Although the seats for MIC are now filled, we will ask Tomomi Bulson about the possibility of assisting as our cultural liaison. She is from Japan and has a degree in International Business compliance.

We may consider posting on social media- advertising for community members to join coffee talks with Tsubame.

Tsubame was interested in Sheboygan's MIC coming to visit during their festival in summer 2025.

7. Esslingen

Let Veronica know if you are interested in joining Coffee Talks with Esslingen.

In October 2023, Mayor Sorenson was appointed to the Hessen Society Board for International Trade Relation Programs. Several companies in Sheboygan, such as Sargento and Kohler, do business with Germany.

In Sheboygan's Esslingen Park there is now a plaque where our mayor and Esslingen's mayor planted a tree together this summer.

Additional Topics-

State Department training for MIC.

Mayor Sorenson had been invited to the COP28 Summit regarding climate change in Dubai, but was unable to attend. In the future, we can discuss involvement in this.

TEAMS-Currently the city's IT is updating policies and setting up cybersecurity. We may have access to this in the future for MIC.

We can consider working with Sister City International, who charges a \$500 annual fee for membership to help us find future Sister Cities.

At the library on the 2nd floor is a scrapbook, by the historical items, of the previous MIC Mayor's events. If you get time, check it out for ideas.

Closing of Meeting

8. Next Meeting – January 11th
9. Adjourn

Adjourn at 6:14 PM.

In compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, this agenda was posted in the following locations more than 24 hours prior to the time of the meeting:

*City Hall • Mead Public Library
Sheboygan County Administration Building • City's website*