

# **CITY OF SHEBOYGAN**

## **MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

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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 5:17 PM in Conference Room 106 at City Hall (828 Center Avenue, Sheboygan) and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Present: Chairperson Alexandria King-Close, Vice Chair Peter Janssen, Vice Chair Lisa Salgado, Sarah Engel-Streicher, Nicole Brown, Deb Sabol-Williams, Brittany Wagner, Diedre Martinez, Alex Vanden Huevel, Aubrey Lockwood, Veronica Valdez, Mickenzie Petrie, Cole Phillips.

Guests Present: Tomomi Kanemaru, Jon and Minami Beaudry

We had guests attend the MIC meeting Minami & Jon Beaudry. Jon, originally from Sheboygan, taught English near Tokyo for 10 years. He has studied Kendo, which is Martial Arts with Samurai swords. He and his wife moved to Sheboygan, April 2023. Minami is originally from Japan and they will assist us with translation, Japanese etiquette and ideas for the Tsubame delegation and other events.

Tomomi Bulson also attended the MIC meeting. She is also from Japan and will assist MIC.

Members not in attendance: Mayor Ryan Sorenson, Kara Ottum, Tony Rammer, Melissa Para

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **MINUTES**

#### **3. Approval of December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes.**

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

#### **4. Correspondence**

Tsubame had an earthquake at 4:10pm on 1-1-2024. Mayor Sorenson reached out to Tsubame on X to see how they were doing and they responded right away. Mayor Suzuki had met at City Hall to assess the damage. They are doing well with no injuries and only minor damage that is being repaired.

Mayor Tsutomu Suzuki sent us a New Year's letter and the Tsubame school children sent letters and artwork to Longfellow students. This letter will be posted on social media.

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## 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

Deb Sabol-Williams is putting together a display at Meade Public Library on March 8th, in honor of the 25th Anniversary of Tsubame. Brittany volunteered to help her. **If you are interested, please let Deb know.** She will get approval with Longfellow school to post photos of the children.

On July 31, 2024 to August 8, 2024 4 students and 2 teachers will be coming to Sheboygan from Tsubame. Veronica has sent a list of events for them to choose from: YMCA Camp Y-Koda Sat & Sun, BBQ, Brat Fry. Minami & Jon Beaudry suggested taking them to a grocery store like Festival foods, Johnsonville brats are becoming popular in Japan and they would enjoy a tour, also a tour of a cheese factory. Jon said many children he worked with always wanted to eat an American burger, we will make sure it has a "Sheboygan hardroll." Veronica has arranged a shuttle for the group to be picked up in Chicago along with a 1 day visit in Chicago. They also requested presentations, which will be held at Meade Library.

We still need 6 host families for the delegates. MIC members, People to People and the Rotary may be able to assist with this. Let Veronica know if you would like to host.

## 7. Esslingen

Posted on the MIC Facebook page and in the Sheboygan Press was a holiday letter sent from Mayor Klopfer

Veronica sent Kara Ottum a list of supplies and other information to organize for Esslingenfest.

Peter Janssen will need to send Kara our ideas list yet.

We need to expand school partnerships to enhance our relationship with Esslingen.

## ADDITIONAL TOPICS:

### LUXEMBOURG

Marc Zimer sent correspondence to Lisa, who read it to the MIC. Clervaux in Luxembourg is interested in becoming Sheboygan's Sister City. **Veronica will give a copy to Mayor Sorenson for consideration. Possibly he can reach out to Marc.**

"Well I understand the idea behind the Committee's decision. But honestly I think it is a mistake. North and South Sheboygan high school will have exchanges with schools here in Luxembourg. There will be

host families involved. Lakeland University is involved.

Things would be much easier with a sister city agreement and Luxembourg is little Europe, so many cultures, languages within a small country.

And Clervaux is a place with a castle and also American history. That's something unique. Tourism is something you could share and sustainability besides education.

The principal of the school in Clervaux is going to meet the mayor on Monday. He told me that they are interested. The doors are all wide open right now :) "

## **TEAMS**

Tonight we developed work groups to build momentum on various projects. If you have not signed up for team or still wish to join a team let Veronica know ASAP. She will be sending out meeting dates on Monday, January 15, 2024. We are welcome to use City Hall or you can choose another location for your meetings.

1. MIC Policies & Procedures with the Mayor: Annie, Lisa, Peter and Sarah Scheduled for 1-24-24 at 5:15 PM City Hall.
2. Esslingenfest Planning Mtg
3. Tsubame Coffee Talks-Cole volunteered as the Lead. He will get people paired up with a partner, decide on a platform, put together introductions and etiquette. He will make sure that people are making calls to each other.
4. Scouts for Sister Cities: Sarah will send out Sister City Process and Criteria that she had put together as a guideline. ASIA Alex-connections with Philippines & Singapore, Nicole-India, Lisa-Laos AFRICA-Lisa, SOUTH AMERICA-Brittney, EUROPE-Sarah-Scandinavia, AUSTRALIA- Alex & Sarah (No Antarctica However, Lisa does have a friend who works at the Ice Cube Neutrino Observatory there!)

Annie-let us know which one you were interested in.

5. Esslingen Coffee Talks-Alex will be the lead. Build more connections and possibly include new city employees.
6. Event Planning-More events throughout the year with an opportunity to educate about our Sister Cities. Priority is to have a Tsubame Event. These events will also raise money for MIC. Members: Brittney, Aubry, Alex, Deb, Nicole, Sarah & Lisa. Jon & Minami Beaudry, Tomomi Bulson.

**Ideas:** Mickenzie's idea-Farmer's Market table, sell 3D printed origami cranes-Cole has some, QR code to our MIC city page and Facebook page, handouts, Young Professional group volunteers-Deidre. Alex's idea-bike ride with educational or food stops. Includes e-bikes, trail to Fond du Lac, Sheboygan transportation group.

Tsubame event- Jon -Kendo swords, Minami and Tomomi have Yukata robes, Tomomi suggested a traditional flashcard game-Karuta and the children can even make them. Toy-Kendama.

Yoga in the park

**Apple Pay-Veronica will check with the Finance Team**

## **Closing of Meeting**

8. Next Meeting – February 8<sup>th</sup>
9. Adjourn

Adjourn at 6:17 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*