

**MINUTES
MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2013**

Present: Jim Graf, Yolanda Graf, Jane Kautzer, Keary Kautzer, Anna Schoen, Henry Schoen, Don Silvis, Jean Kittelson and Mary Rajer

Excused: Sue Van Akkeren

Absent: Ald. Jodi Vander Weele and Mai Xiong

Call to Order: Jim Graf called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at City Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: The committee stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Anna, second by Jane, the minutes from the January 8, 2013 meeting were approved. All ayes – motion carried.

Correspondence: Letter from Tandra Sbrocco, Global Education Coordinator at LTC, discussed under New Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for donation for German Exchange to Hessen, Germany from LTC:

Tandra Sbrocco was present to explain the reason for the request for donation. As the Global Education Coordinator of Lakeshore Technical College, she is organizing a German Exchange Program for four students and one faculty member this spring. The group will stay with host families, visit companies, farm, cultural sites, and learn about the German culture and school system. They will also participate in job shadow opportunities in their respective fields of study. The cost of the trip for each person is approximately \$2,000 and they are reaching out to others and pursuing fundraising venues in order to fund this trip from outside sources as much as possible.

Although the committee recognizes all cultural exchanges as being important and worthwhile it was felt that donating to this group would set a precedent and open the doors to a flood of requests. It is also not within the scope of our Mission Statement which reads:

Mission Statement

***“A group of city residents and residents living within the boundaries of the Sheboygan Area School District, appointed by the Mayor of Sheboygan, empowered to represent and further the City’s commitment to understanding and friendship between the Sister Cities and the City of Sheboygan and between the peoples of the world at the request of the Mayor or Common Council.*”**

As official ambassadors of the City of Sheboygan, the International Committee members shall act as community representatives and City Government Liaisons at public events which honor visitors from our Sister Cities and other foreign visitors to our City at the request of the Mayor or Common Council.

The committee’s primary function is to promote, facilitate and host or assist official visits to or from the City of Sheboygan and our Sister Cities and at the request of the Mayor or Common Council perform these same functions for diverse cultural, education and business groups, societies, and organizations from all countries.”

After further discussion, a motion was made by Mary, second by Henry to deny the request for a donation. All ayes – motion carries.

Committee appointments for 2013 – 2014:

The term for all committee members will expire at the end of April. All members present with the exception of Jean Kittelson expressed their desire to be reappointed. Jean will be traveling for six months out of the year and is no longer available to serve. Thank you Jean, for your many years of service. We will miss you and wish you happy travels.

OLD BUSINESS:**Foreign Exchange Student Party:**

Committee members were in agreement that Jakum's Hall was a great venue and would like to plan next year's Foreign Exchange Student Party for the same place. It was also agreed to hold it in February again instead of December. Jim will call to reserve Jakum's for February 11, 2014.

Schedule next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 5:15 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Yolanda and seconded by Henry. All ayes – motion carried.

Submitted by:
Mary Rajer, Secretary