

**MINUTES**  
**MAYOR'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING OF JUNE 26, 2014**

**Members Present:** Ald. Bill Thiel, Al Kuether, Barb Kuether, Yolanda Graf, Jim Graf Julie Vandersteen, Ruth Gerstner, Anna Schoen, Henry Schoen, Keary Kautzer, Jane Kautzer, Fran Burg and Mary Rajer

**Excused:** Gerry Schwoerer and Randy Schwoerer

**Unexcused:** Don Silvis and Mai Xiong

**Others in Attendance:** Mayor Vandersteen

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Yolanda, second by Anna, the minutes from the May 13, 2014 meeting were approved.

**Correspondence:** Thank you emails were sent to Jutta, Pauline, and Paul Leonidis at the Esslingen Fire Department and responses were received regarding our recent visit to our Sister City.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Relationship with Sister City Tsubame, Japan:** It was learned through emails with Lynne Thompson that the student exchanges are no longer taking place. Tsubame sent their last delegation here the summer of 2011. Pam Gottsacker and Lynne Thompson had been taking care of the exchange program ever since the SASD dropped it from their curriculum. After 2011 Pam and Lynne were not able to continue with the program. It became increasingly difficult to get students interested in the experience due to the great cost of traveling to Tsubame. They informed Mr. Fumiaki Tamura who is their contact person at the City of Tsubame. His decision was to leave the arrangement somewhat open-ended, should we ever decide in the future that we could once again participate in the exchange.

After a discussion it was felt that it was also not a committee function to facilitate an exchange program. A motion was made by Julie, second by Jim to write a letter to our Sister City of Tsubame, Japan to let them know that we are still very interested in maintaining our partnership with them even though we are not having student exchanges at this time. All ayes – motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Trip to Esslingen:** The mayor and nine committee members who were part of the official delegation that traveled to Esslingen last month reported that they had a wonderful trip. Mayor Vandersteen made a favorable impression on Oberbürgermeister Jürgen Zieger and members of Esslingen City government when he spoke of recognizing the problem in Sheboygan with finding enough students to take part in the student exchange and wanting to do something about it. Mayor Vandersteen will be talking with Tom Reimann from People to People on July 9<sup>th</sup> regarding this issue.

**Fundraisers:** The committee will not have a vendor booth at Deland Park on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year.

Julie asked the committee if they would be interested in selling cook books – the Best of Country Cookies. The book includes 277 recipes, each a family favorite chosen from over 34,000 cookie recipes in a national contest. It's the best-selling cookie book ever published, with over 400,000 copies sold. We offer the book to customers for \$9.99. It's large (8-1/2 x 11), is filled with full-color photos of freshly-baked cookies, includes

helpful baking tips, and shares details how 34,000 recipes were tested to choose the 277 winners. We would sell the book for \$9.99 each. Groups are not required to pay for the books in advance. Books can be picked up at their office in Greendale (or shipped for \$14.99 per case of 36). A free sample of the book is on its way to the mayor's office.

A motion was made by Julie, second by Mary for the committee to sell this cook book as a fundraiser and to order two cases to start. All ayes – motion carries.

The mayor reported on behalf of Randy Schwoerer on a fundraising idea. His idea was to have an event like Taste of Sheboygan but to have an international flair to it – International Taste of Sheboygan. Invite all the ethnic restaurants and caterers to be vendors, for entertainment we could have dancers from the different ethnic groups, etc. Our committee could have a beverage booth. It could be held outside or indoors. Most members were in favor of an indoor location so that you didn't need to depend on the weather. The committee seemed interested in the idea of holding an International Taste of Sheboygan but would like to obtain more information on possible venues and costs, list of possible vendors, etc. before they can proceed.

**Schedule next meeting:** Thursday, August 7th, 2014 at 5:15 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room.

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

Submitted by:  
Mary Rajer, Secretary