

MANITOWOC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2020 IN THE 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
OF CITY HALL, 900 QUAY STREET, MANITOWOC, WI

IN ATTENDANCE: Justin Nickels, Mayor, Lori Denk, Tina Prigge, Cindy Kaesermann, Jim Larson, Kay Larson, Scott McMeans, Kelly Meyer, April Meyer, Bob LeClair and Debbie Gainey

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:00 PM

CHANGE OF PRESIDENT: Cindy Kaesermann will be stepping down as MIRA President. With a motion called and a unanimous vote, Tina Prigge will take over as President on March 1, 2020. Cindy will send a formal letter to KIRA in Kamogawa informing them of this change.

FINANCIAL POLICIES: Justin provided a written statement of the two funds that comprise MIRA's finances and what the restrictions are for their use. Fund 2131 is funded privately and Fund 2130 is funded by 1.25% of the annual room tax collections. This itemizing will aid in transparency and also budgeting. The Mayor is the approving authority for expenses from these funds.

MIRA COMMITTEES: In the past, Kelly Meyer has been head of the student exchange committee and Debbie Gainey head of the adult delegation committee. These are the activities that involve extensive planning. Other activities like the art exchange or pen pal program need a key person rather than a committee. Other committees may be formed, for items like tourism, as needed in the future.

PEN PAL PROGRAM: The second batch of correspondence has been received between the Manitowoc 5th graders and Kamogawa. There is a lot of enthusiasm from the students for this program.

KAMOGAWA ARTWORK: The art has been received from the Kamogawa students. It will be displayed at the Rahr-West museum in Manitowoc during Youth Art Month. It was discussed to do a press release announcing the Kamogawa artwork. The Manitowoc artwork sent to Kamogawa was displayed there in late fall.

SUMMER 2020 PARTY: It was decided to have a summer event to raise funds and spread the word about MIRA and the sister-city. We would make it a cultural event that would attract people associated with MIRA in the past (former SEP hosts, students, citizen exchange participants, etc) and community members interested in the culture aspect. Many ideas were generated for attracting people to the event (sake-tasting, origami, tea, Japanese food, kimono wearing) and possibly tying it in to the Manitowoc anniversary celebration and the Tokyo Olympics. Prior to the event, it should be promoted heavily, possibly at the Farmers Market downtown. A MIRA meeting will be held on March 9, 2020 at 6:00PM for planning a date, venue and other items for this event.

OTHER: Kelly Meyer brought the Judges Choice award that MIRA won for the Lakeshore Holiday Parade entry.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:00 PM.