

MANITOWOC INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ASSOCIATION
MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2022 AT VAGABOND CREATIVE
STUDIO 621 YORK STREET MANITOWOC WI 5422

IN ATTENDANCE: Tina Prigge, MIRA President, Lori Denk, MIRA Secretary, Courtney Hansen, Manitowoc Director of Tourism, Alderman Michael Cummings, Sirin Avci, Bob LeClair & Kay Larson

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:35 PM.

November 4, there was an online exchange via ZOOM between members of MIRA and KIRA. The KIRA members gave a presentation of places of interest in Kamogawa, and the participants broke off into chat rooms to talk to each other about their respective cities.

Prior to reorganization, MIRA had 2 funds—one from donations and one from a small percentage of the city room tax. The \$28,000 is now combined with other city funds but MIRA expenses are built in the city budget. The new procedure is for MIRA to request needed funds, and the Room Tax Agenda which meets monthly will discuss and approve.

After 3 years of no Student Exchange Program (SEP) due to the pandemic, MIRA is eager to resume it in 2023. Kelly Meyer, SEP Chair, drafted a letter to be sent to Kamogawa. Tina Prigge will follow up with tentative dates and number of participants, having up to 6 students in past exchanges.

With 2023 being the 30th anniversary of the sister-city relationship, a logo is being designed featuring something from both cities, and 30th anniversary written in Japanese and English, possibly to be put on a pin or other items. Kamogawa was going to send a delegation, but with the economy, will wait a year. They asked Manitowoc to send a small delegation. As there was some interest, Tina will follow up with details.

The penpal exchange is off to a slow start but the school is getting permission from the student's parents and hopefully the Manitowoc students will be able to start the exchange in December. Kamogawa posted a photo of Manitowoc students art that is on display in Kamogawa and are sending some origami ornaments that the Japanese students made.

MIRA is still looking at having a manga artist at the Manitowoc Public Library in early 2023.

MIRA members participating in the Secret Santa exchange with KIRA are reminded to bring their \$10/1 lb or less item to Vagabond Studio by December 1. It should include a card with their name and if the gift is wrapped, include a note with the contents for customs. Tina will inform the group with the date of the exchange and determine the next meeting date later.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:30 PM