

JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE

June 3, 2024

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

- A. Meeting started at 6:31
- B. Present: Cassy Pallo (chair), Chad Whisenhunt, Danijela Nenadic, Dustin Henrich (Vice Chair), Jeannae Segura Brown (Historian), Kristy DeMeyer (Treasurer), Katie Gall (Secretary)

1. JAPANESE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE AGENDA - JUNE 3, 2024 6:30PM

DISCUSS HOST FAMILY PLAN FOR JAPANESE DELEGATES ARRIVING IN AUGUST

- A. Jeannae is having trouble finding host families from the Glendale community and no applications have been turned in since Cassy emailed the alumni.
- B. Delegates will be here August 3 - 18
- C. Requirements for hosting:
 - 1. Arranging transportation to a designated meeting location on days when the committee has organized activities. (this meeting location may vary by day and activity, but you'll be notified well in advance.)
 - 2. Providing 3 meals a day for your host student. This may include sack lunches and/or lunch money for some days, although the committee will do our best to cover lunches at our organized activities where possible.
 - 3. Providing a secure, private space for your student to sleep, rest, and/or study. If you don't have room in your home to provide a bedroom for your student, but you'd still like to host, please contact me for advice. Households that can't provide a bedroom for their student may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - 4. Generally speaking, you'll be responsible for the student's health and wellbeing during their stay, and you'll need to consider excellent hospitality to be a priority during their stay.
 - 5. Don't have to live in Independence, but close
- We have had families in Raytown, Blue Springs, Buckner, Fort, etc.
- Independence will have priority, but we will accept people outside the city.
- D. Keep in mind that no one will be guaranteed to be able to be on an exchange in the future, even if they host.
- E. We should advertise by word-of-mouth and potentially on social media. Everyone can mention it to people we know. We can consider advertising on

Facebook. We need time to take a tour of the homes and conduct a round-up where we can pair the students with the hosts. We would like to set the deadline for the beginning of July. We would like to have our host families lined up by July 1st and let Japan know two weeks later.

F. Potential Host Families

1. Former Mayor Weir
2. Chad (1-2 students)
3. Chad's Neighbor
4. Kristy (2-4 students; have two empty bedrooms but 2 is the preference)
5. Danijela (would need Kristy to help as a stop-gap measure when her family is out of town)

G. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is June 12th. We will discuss plans and then we will probably need one more meeting after that to discuss host families.

H. Jeannae is suggesting we should consider changing the model into the future. In 2009, our trip was canceled, but we hosted them on our side. Their Higashimurayama Mayor canceled because of issues pertaining to hosting. Kristy suggested looking into a change after they leave on August 18th; that for now, we need to find host families and we can pursue other options after this exchange. Jeannae's concern is burning out our committee members and Higashimurayama's committee members. Cassy suggested developing a more sustainable recruitment model.

I. Timeframe – strongly suggest making the asks this week and trying to get people on board ASAP.

J. Everyone is going to reach out to different groups over the next week and we will get back together to see what kind of traction we have gained. Organic posts to social media will be great as part of our efforts. For now, we will not pay for advertising on Facebook. Look for the posts on our Facebook page and Uptown Matsuri Instagram for examples and to copy the verbiage, if desired.

K. Next Wednesday, we hope to have more families and will have a better idea for the direction we are headed.

ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting adjourned at 7:27

B. Dustin motioned and Kristy seconded

NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 12th, 6:00pm