



Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

March 12, 2025 6:00 PM

<https://teams.live.com/join/9340514050895?p=vw2IOl4Er0PfvjEu>

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

1. Meeting called to order at 6:05
2. Attendance, Cassy Pallo, Dustin Henrich, Danijela Nenadic, Chad Whisenhunt, Sebastian Gonzalez, Kim Osborne, Jeannae Segura Brown, Katie Gall, Laura Seigfreid

II. APPROVE PRIOR MINUTES

- A. Danijela moved to approve the March meeting minutes; Dustin seconded. All members present voted with a show of hands to approve and the motion passed.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS, IF ANY

- A. One student backed out of the exchange and one alternate agreed to fill the open spot. The Japanese host families have been established
- B. Kim announced that Mayor Rowland received letters from the Independence delegates and was pleased to hear from them.

IV. STUDENT DELEGATE UPDATE

- A. We may now return the deposit to the student who dropped out. Chad will start the process. Dustin moved to return the original deposit to the student who

dropped out of the program; Jeannae seconded. All members present voted in favor of the motion; it carried.

- B. We now have the Japanese host family names. Cassy will update them with the student change. Patric Koon (chaperone) and Cassy will update the Japanese organization on the host family assignments.
- C. JSCC is working with the new student to edit the payment schedule since they came to the program late.
- D. Tracie Whitting Kipper (Japanese language and culture class instructor) has been paid for her services.

V. MATSURI UPDATE

- A. The event is on May 3rd
- B. Performers have been contacted and are in various stages of confirmation.
- C. Poster from last year will be updated for this year's festival.
- D. Dustin has updated the website.
- E. Dustin has filled out the grant application for Japan Foundation (last year's grant was \$800 and the plan is for the same this year).
 - 1. Grant includes advertising money for Facebook ads.

- 1. Dustin will coordinate the ads.

F. JETAA will have a booth at Matsuri and will pay a booth fee.

G. Jobs:

- 1. Coordinate vendors – Needs volunteer

- 1. Arrange booth placement
- 2. Help them navigate the logistics

- 2. Coordinate performers - Cassy
- 3. Arrange for food trucks

- 1. Kim will send the information required for the food trucks to Dustin and Cassy

- 4. Contact alumni and previous host families to see who can volunteer

- 1. Cassy has that list in the Chairperson's Google account.

- 5. Outreach to alumni

- 1. Can send them an invitation and add in a request for donations and/or volunteers.

- 6. Send advertisement graphic to the City's Communications person

- 1. Can it be displayed on the boards outside of the market?

VI. HOST FAMILIES UPDATE

- A. Cassy is working on a letter for send to potential host families
- B. The Google form is ready to accept applications

VII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. We do have a Truman Heartland Foundation account so we can accept donations.
- B. We have a Venmo account linked to the JSCC bank account and can use Venmo to accept payment for small things like vending at the Matsuri.
- C. To-do
 - 1. Send host family link to Rebecca with the City of Independence
 - 2. Send the City the advertisement for Matsuri
- D. Laura recommended reaching out to the Kansas City Asian American Chamber of Commerce for a list of potential food vendors
- E. Dustin would like to reach out to the Independence Chamber of Commerce to see if any local businesses have contracts with Panasonic.
 - 1. He would like to see if we can use a connection to help with a grant for the Japanese Garden.

VIII. ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

- A. N/A

IX. ADJOURN

- A. Dustin motioned to adjourn, Danijela seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:02

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH 2025

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 9th 2025