



Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

December 11, 2024 6:00 PM

<https://teams.live.com/meet/9340514050895?p=vw2lOl4Er0PfvjEu>

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

1. Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM
2. Sabastian Gonzalez, Katie Gall (Secretary), Dustin Henrich (Vice Chair), Danijela Nenadic, Chad Whisenunt, Cassy Pallo (Chair), Patric Koon (Community Member and 2025 Chaperone) were all in attendance.

Approve Prior Minutes

1. Cassy noted that Katie was at the last meeting (voice only, no video)
2. Dustin moved to approve Nov meeting minutes with Cassy's edit, Danijela seconded. All present agreed with show of hands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, IF ANY

1. None

HIFA REQUESTS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT EXCHANGE DATES. PLEASE DISCUSS.

1. HIFA would like for the Independence delegates to be in Japan from June 6-20, 2025 (Jun 6-21 was original timeframe)
2. Japanese delegates will be in Independence from August 3-18, 2025 (August 3-18 or Aug 4-19 was original timeframe)
3. Katie motioned to accept the date changes and Dustin seconded. All present agreed with

show of hands.

STUDENT DELEGATE SELECTION COMMITTEE PRESENTS THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2025

1. Great turnout this year with 38 applications
 1. Dustin plans to contact top 10 applicants, and those students will have until Dec 31st to accept or decline.
 1. Deposits will be due at the end of the month along with the code of conduct.
 1. Dustin will let the students know that Patric Koon will be contacting them after the first of the year to arrange for meetings and culture / language classes.
 2. If they need more time to make the deposit, we can work with them on a case-by-case basis.
 3. Dustin will work with Kristy to make plans for accepting payment.
 2. Two backups were chosen in case one of the original students declines their spot. Dustin will also contact them and let them know their status.
 3. Dustin will also notify the candidates that are not accepted and will not make a good backup.
2. Approval of Candidates
 1. The Selection Committee would like to recommend these 10 students and two backups for the 2025 Exchange program.
 1. Chad motioned to accept the recommendation and Danijela seconded. All present voted to accept with a show of hands.
3. Culture and Language Classes
 1. Chad suggested restructuring the class to be more basic.
 1. Dustin will talk with Tracie (Tracie Whiting Kipper is a former Committee member and taught the classes for the 2024 exchange delegates)
 1. If she isn't available, maybe Sebastian would like to take over the teaching portion.
 2. Cassy also mentioned that Tracie's class is on Patreon.
1. Committee may discuss, accept, deny, and/or postpone selections. All committee members have access to full applications and interview notes. Dustin will lead presentation.

REVIEW INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT FOR 2024 STUDENT, TIME PERMITTING

1. Insurance declined paying the claim
2. We should go back and try again because it appears to Cassy that it should have been

covered. Kristy or Cassy will try to call again.

SELECT DATE AND COORDINATOR FOR MATSURI

1. Independence Graduation is May 16-17
2. May 4th
 1. Earlier than last year
 1. Dustin mentioned that it will make it difficult to get the grant we were awarded last year because it is so close to the beginning of their fiscal year.
3. Saturday May 31st or Sunday June 1st
 1. Right before Independence delegates leave
 2. Downfall is that school will already be out and the students from the Japanese Clubs most likely won't come.
4. May 3rd and 10th are the best options
 1. School is still in session
 2. Avoids graduation
 3. Student delegates can attend
 4. Avoids holidays (Mother's Day and Memorial Day) since they are Saturdays
5. Cassy will transfer her Matsuri duties to Dustin

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

1. Japanese Garden
 1. Maintenance is complete and it is ready for winter
 2. In original plan, there is a tea house in the center. Dustin suggested changing that to a landscaping-based feature to alleviate structural implications.
 3. The City is good-to-go on the design. Dustin has started drafting letters to solicit donations (which will be managed by Truman Heartland Foundation).
 4. Adult delegation will be here in 2028 for the 50th Anniversary.
 5. \$100,000 is the estimated cost for the project.
 6. Patric Koon suggested speaking with ISD about collaboration. He said that Van Horn shop teacher is a master craftsman that might be able to help.
 1. Cassy told Patric he should spread the word about the garden at school, especially with the art department which could use the space for sketching.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Nominating Committee
 1. Chad, Kristy, and Danijela are working on recommendations.
 1. Nominations are in January
 2. Airplane tickets should be purchased in February

3. Host family recruitment should begin soon so people can put it on their calendars.
4. Think about fundraisers to increase funds.

ADJOURNMENT

- A. Dustin motioned and Danijela seconded
 1. 7:17 PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8th 2025