



Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

October 9, 2024 6:00 PM

Join @ <https://teams.live.com/join/9340514050895?p=vw2lOl4Er0PfvjEu>

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

- I. Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM. Members present: Cassy Pallo, Dustin Henrich, Danijela Nenadic-Book, Kristy DeMeyer, Chad Whisenhunt. Community present: Kim Osborne**

Approval of Minutes

- I. Kristy moved to approve September minutes as written. Chad seconded. Motion passed with all members present voting in favor.**

- 1. Minutes**

JAPAN FEST REVIEW/REPORT

- I. Japan Fest Review/Report:**

Lower attendance this year in general. Staff at table did great, huge thanks to prep team as well. Total profit from sale: \$489.50. This is lower than past years, but seemed proportionate to attendance. Chair recommends additional fall fundraiser(s) to make up for reduced income here.

VOTE ON GARDEN MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE

- I. Garden update: Koji Morimoto (Japanese gardener) dismayed by suggestion to**

move garden. He discussed the history of the location and the work invested by prior committee members and folks from Higashimurayama as well. He advises us to not move the garden if the current location is not dangerous. We will seek more information about our options and the safety of the location from City Hall and return to discussion of relocation and redesign.

- II. stated cost of annual maintenance for this fall is \$1750. Committee discussed possibility of bartering volunteer work for a reduced cost or other potential bargaining options, but decided to accept the cost as is. Kristy moved to approve an expenditure of \$1,750 to Koji Morimoto for this year's maintenance. Danijela seconded motion. All members present voted in favor. motion passes. Dustin will work to coordinate a volunteer work day while Mr. Morimoto is present conducting maintenance. (date TBD)

DISCUSS PROPOSED EXCHANGE DATES FROM HIFA. APPROVE, COUNTEROFFER, OR DELAY.

- A. Independence delegation arrives in Higashimurayama on June 6th and departs Higashimurayama on June 21st. (committee discussion and agreement, no vote.)
- B. Higashimurayama delegation departs Higashimurayama on August 3rd and returns on August 18th OR departs on August 4th and returns on the 19th. Committee recommends the first option (depart August 3rd, return August 18th.) no vote.

RECRUITING UPDATE FROM DUSTIN AND CHAD

- I. Recruiting update from Dustin and Chad:
 - A. 1st info meeting went well. Good attendance, accurate and informative video presentation about the 2024 delegation experience and the delegation experience in general. Very few questions. 1 family of potential delegate also interested in hosting.
 - B. We currently have 33 (!) applicants. This far exceeds previous years in recent memory. Part 2 application will go out by this weekend. Students need to have part 2 completed (including personal statement and 2 references) before we will schedule their interview. Interviews begin in November.
 - C. Cassy will create a shared document of possible interview questions for Chad and Dustin to select from. Chad is developing a criteria/scoring sheet to establish consistency among interview results if different committee members or volunteers conduct interviews with different students. All committee members are welcome to join and conduct interviews. (a minimum of 2 committee members should be present for each student interview.) If there is sufficient demand, we may conduct multiple concurrent interviews on the same nights/times to get through them. Chair asks committee to consider the possibility of second interviews, due to quantity.

- D. We have one chaperone applicant, and will do a bit more outreach for candidates.
- II. Discussion of a ticket insurance claim made by one student that requested and was approved to depart for Higashimurayama later than the rest of the delegation. Insurance did not cover the full cost of the flight change, and student has inquired if the committee will cover the remaining cost. Before voting on an expenditure, the committee has requested a review of the insurance policy in question and a copy of the claim filed by the student.

SCHEDULE REMINDERS: 3 PERSON OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE ELECTED NEXT MONTH. TO VOLUNTEER FOR THIS COMMITTEE, PLEASE NOTIFY CHAIR. NOMINATED OFFICERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN JANUARY 2025, ELECTION WILL BE IN FEBRUARY 2025.

- I. Schedule reminders: 3 person officer nominating committee will be elected next month. To volunteer for this committee, please notify chair. Nominated officers will be announced in January 2025, election will be in February 2025. Chair will email detailed procedure and schedule to committee for review and reminder prior to November meeting.

TIME PERMITTING, DISCUSS DATE OF SPRING FESTIVAL AND SURVEY INTEREST FOR COORDINATOR.

- I. time permitting, discuss date of spring festival and survey interest for coordinator. (time did not permit)

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- I. items from the floor-none

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

- I. topics for next meeting: review of ticket insurance claim, election of officer nominating committee.

ADJOURNMENT

- I. Motion to adjourn: Dustin. Second: Chad. Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM

INFORMATION ONLY

N/A

- 1. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November, 13 2024

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