



Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

September 10, 2025 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

1. Roll Call/Call to Order

- Attendees: Jeannae Segura Brown, Chad Wisenhunt, Danijela Nenadic, Dustin Henrich, Sabastian Gonzalez, Katie Gall, Kim Osborne (City of Independence), and Patric Koon (future member)

APPROVE PRIOR MINUTES

1. Approve Prior Minutes

- Jeannae motioned to approve the August 2025 minutes as recorded (distributed via email) and Danijela seconded. *All voted in favor with a show of hands.*

UPTOWN MATSURI DISCUSSION

1. Uptown Matsuri Discussion

- Saturday, November 8th 11am – 4pm
 - Paperwork has been completed to reserve the space for the festival.
 - Dustin asked if it would work to start the festival earlier in the day and Jeannae provided feedback that it will work fine with the Glendale students and their families.
 - Dustin will fill out the application to reserve the space from 10am – 5pm with festival hours from 11am -4pm
- Decorations
 - Dustin recommends a combo of midwestern fall elements with Japanese

fall elements. He has started to research and will share findings.

- Performers
 - Three Trails Taiko
 - Tatsumaki Yosakoi Dancers
 - KC Kendo
 - Glendale Elementary Kids
- Areas of Needs for Planning/Volunteers
 - *Performers*
 - Jeannae contact and schedule
 - We will need a sound system (Jeannae has one that we have used in the past for farewell event during during the exchange).
 - *Food Trucks*
 - Chad will contact and schedule
 - *Vendors*
 - Danijela will contact and ask for commitments and sponsorships
 - In the past Heartland JETAA has paid a booth fee
 - *Volunteers / Our Tables (Drinks, Info)*
 - Katie and family to plan and staff the drink station
 - *Website, Grant, and Master Planning*
 - Dustin
 - Spreadsheet for volunteers and tasks
- Sponsorship Discussion
 - Danijela attended a festival which had games
 - Perhaps sponsors can contribute items for the games
 - She will contact Build Up, Level 1, Game Café
 - Maybe past host families can help with manning the game stations
 - Raffle
 - Gather donation items for a raffle
- Grant
 - Dustin will fill out the forms based on past events (adding buffer for inflation).
- Admission Fee
 - \$8 like last year and hopefully we will have other opportunities for the attendees to donate and purchase items
 - The ticket will come with a drink like in the past.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

1. Items from the Floor

- Boards and Commissions training was held August 22nd and all members are required to complete the session
 - Members of JSCC can watch the video recording of the session and then let Dustin know it's complete.
 - Katie attended the live session

- Natsu Matsuri
 - A New Festival – Summer Festival – August 31st at Merriam Marketplace in Kansas
 - Danijela attended, it was smaller than ours but similar
 - She spoke with some vendors that are interested in participating in ours as well.
- Japanese Garden
 - City Hall is moving in stages starting in November
 - Dustin spoke with Kim and the Independence City Manager
 - Mid Continent Public Library plans to take over the current City Hall and have submitted a Letter of Interest (potential Administrative HQ)
 - Dustin would like to partner with MCPL to maintain the Japanese Garden where it is
 - Kim encouraged Dustin to reach out to MCPL about our intention and proposed partnership.
 - Tea House structure will not be implemented in the design and might be changed to tables or a different feature
 - Dustin plans to speak with Panasonic about potential sponsorship
 - Dustin plans to speak with James Kanki, Honorary Consul of Japan at Kansas City
 - It's time for annual maintenance
 - Dustin will get an invoice for maintenance that we can review
 - It might be more than we can pay for this year with the festival later in the year
- Van Horn HS AP Class is going to work on a project with JSCC as a client and Patric would like to invite JSCC to attend presentation on Oct 1st in the afternoon from 1:14 – 2:00 (one class period at VHHS).
 - Invite the Mayor and Kim to attend as well
- Invite ISD to attend Matsuri and encourage a video with the Glendale performance.

1. 2025 Delegate Recruitment

- We have already received multiple applicants for the 2026 exchange.
 - Chad has notified the three Independence High Schools that the application period is open.
 - Great response so far!
 - Dustin will start a schedule for interviews.
 - 2026 Chaperone and two committee representatives will need to sit in on the interviews.
- We need to find a chaperone for 2026.

2. Website is Down

- Kristy's info (former Treasurer) was on the credit card on file, and the card was

- declined when the website charged the renewal fee.
- The fee is \$276/year for hosting with the ecommerce feature
 - We need to vote to approve the cost of the hosting fee.
 - Jeannae made a motion to approve the \$276 fee; Chad seconded.
All voted in favor of the motion with a show of hands.
 - Chad will work with Dustin to pay for renewal.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTHS AGENDA

ADJOURNMENT

1. Adjourn

- Danijela motioned to adjourn, and Chad seconded.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 8th, 2025