



INDEPENDENCE ★ MISSOURI ★

A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

May 13, 2026 6:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Meeting

<https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting?omkt=en-US>

Join the meeting now https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZjxNjc0YzYtYWQ0MC00MzUyLTg1ZGQtMjBjNDU3NWM3ODVh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22862de864-c0f2-4801-a187-836f98f56db0%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2278cf48fe-35f9-4ea0-8ba2-d6dacefee12f%22%7d

Meeting ID: 286 074 945 888 9

Passcode: D8Ne2BM6

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Dustin Henrich, Kim Osborne, Patric Koon, Chad Whisenhunt, Danijela Book, Sebastian Gonzalez, Laura Seigfield

II. APPROVE PRIOR MINUTES

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Laura motioned
- Danijela second

All approved

III. American Student Exchange Updates

American Student Exchange Updates

- Last meetings are 23rd and 30th (with parents)

- All paperwork has been signed
- Instructions have been given to parents
 - Luggage, cell phone usage, etc
 - These instructions will be covered on the 30th
- Culture/Language lessons finished with Tracie and Miho
- In July, Danijela will have a report with suggestions, improvements, etc that need to be addressed.
- Last payment of \$300 will be made on 5/23rd. Some paying by check. Danijela will meet with Chad to deliver payment.
- Danijela needs reimbursement for a few things.
- GoFundMe and CashApp funds for students will be divided equally among students.
- Jeannae will provide elementary school kids crafts to Danijela for HIFA and is working with Indep Tourism Department
 - Can we have help from Kim from the tourism department?
 - Allison with with Visit Independence
 - Kim can get some pins

IV. HOST FAMILY RECRUITING UPDATES

Host Family Recruitment

- Need to visit Tiffany's family
- Japanese delegates should be assigned to families prior to American students leaving
- We need a family to host two students if possible.

V. JAPANESE MARKET DAY

Japanese Market Day

- CashApp funds raised: \$157 raised before transaction limit hit
- Patric transferred 95 and 72 dollars to Chad.
- Organization challenges led to not as much raised
- Potentially leadership assignments need to be adjusted
- Next year there will be an official Japanese language school club
- They will communicate with JSCC and have monthly meetings and agendas.
- A student's parent emailed Dustin stating a student would be reimbursed.
 - Dustin forwarded the email to Patric for review
 - Patric says the student said they did not spend any funds
 - Patric states the student says he gave receipts, but no one has received receipts
 - Patric called the parent to discuss.
 - Parent feels upset with JSCC in general communication
 - Danijela has been communicating frequently

VI. 501C3 DISCUSSION AND PLANNING

501(c)(3) Status

- IRS has not assigned a reviewer yet to our 501c3 application
-
- Missouri Arts Council sponsors our festival maybe?

VII. SUB-COMMITTEE DETAILS

Sub-Committee Structure

Danijela and Dustin will assign sub-committee roles with monthly responsibilities

VIII. ADJOURN

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH 2026

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 10th, 2026.