

Japanese Sister City Committee Meeting

Teams Meeting Wednesday, July 10th, 2024, 6:00-7:00PM
<https://teams.live.com/join/9340514050895?p=vw2IOI4Er0PfvjEu>

I. Roll Call/Call to Order

- A. Called to order at 6:02
- B. Present: Katie Gall (Secretary), Chad Whisenunt (Member), Danijela Nenadic (Member), Dustin Henrich (Vice Chair), Jeannae Segura Brown (Historian), Cassy Pallo (Chair), Kristy DeMeyer (Treasurer), Kim Osborne (Executive Assistant to the Mayor)

II. Approve prior minutes

- A. Duston moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Danijela seconded and all in attendance voted in favor by a show of hands.

III. Review and reflect on Japan visit

- A. Chad (JSCC Board Member) was the chaperone for the 2024 delegation. Cassy mentioned that there is a survey that can be sent out to the student delegates. Chad will share group photos for program promotion. Group photos and location photos are all desired. Dustin suggested that we create a shared drive that students can dump photos into. Cassy also said she is willing to sort through photos and she's comfortable with them being emailed to her.
- B. Chad said the trip was amazing and nothing went wrong. The Japanese committee was very well organized and the trip was well planned. The only room for improvement that the students voiced was that the high school tour wasn't as beneficial as it could have been because they didn't get much interaction with the students. Each of the student delegates had an excellent experience and Chad appreciated the trip even more the second time. The weather was also great with only one day of rain. Communication was benefited by the "LINE" app. It helped a lot since most had it on their devices. Chad said he's still chatting with his family through the app.
- C. Dustin would like to collaborate with Chad on a Social Media campaign to advertise the program.
- D. Chad would like to help with the chaperone search and delegate search for next year.

- E. Danijela suggested promoting JSCC via ISD middle schools to gain interest in the program. Cassy suggested collaborating with Tracy who is interested in opening her Japanese language and culture classes to the community. It was suggested that establishing more Japanese clubs in elementary and middle schools within the ISD will benefit the program. Anyone who has ideas should bring them to the group in the future.

IV. finalize planning for Independence visit

A. Schedule

1. Aug 3: Arrival
2. Aug 4: Welcome party at a local library (\$35 to rent the space)
3. Aug 5: All day outing
4. Aug 6: Independence history day with sports spectator outing in the evening
5. Aug 7: Independence culture day
6. Aug 8: Public safety and fun afternoon
7. Aug 9: History followed by lake activities
8. Aug 10: Free weekend with host family
9. Aug 11: Free weekend with host family
10. Aug 12: Brunch followed by exploration of Kansas City
11. Aug 13: More Kansas City cultural experiences
12. Aug 14: School visit and theatrical performance
13. Aug 15: Museum day
14. Aug 16: Physical activity followed by shopping

- B. Adventure Oasis passes are an option from the City. Kim will investigate this option. She will also look into ice skating passes.
- C. Chad said that the Independence delegates want to get together with the Japanese delegates. Kristy will share the Sign-up Genius and the Independence students can sign up for what they are available for/interested in. We planned for up to 20 attendees per activity. Kristy suggested that the Independence students collaborate to plan a meal together (or activity of choice) and let us know what night will work best. JSCC will share with the group and people can gather if they are available. Additionally, we welcome the Independence student delegates to drive and help during the days that they are available.
- D. Per Kim, the Mayor's gathering will be catered by Brancatos and it will be followed by a tour of City Hall. Photos in the Mayor's Chair is always a fun option. Former Mayor Weir will be attending the event.
- E. Jeannae asked about student speeches. In the past, there has been a dinner which culminated in a series of "goodbye" speeches presented by the student delegates. Our delegates presented a speech the day before they left Japan and Chad said it was a good experience. Kim brainstormed that the students can present at a City Council meeting or they can give their speeches at the Mayor's event. Cassy suggested having a farewell

dinner and Katie recommended a potluck as an American tradition. Kim will check into reserving a room at the Memorial Building on the last Friday, August 16th. Mayor Rowland will be invited to make remarks; we would love to have him!

V. Decide August meeting date

- A. August 21st is a great date to discuss the exchange.

VI. Items from the floor

- A. Host family pairings have been finalized and Cassy will share with the host families soon.
- B. There is a host family information meeting on Sunday July 14th from 3:30 to 5:00.
- C. Danijela mentioned that we would like to make the Sermon Center the drop-off point. Kim is going to check with the director to make sure it isn't an issue. This will be for weekday events.
- D. Dustin said that Koji has a new price. The price is \$1750 for maintenance and Dustin would like to raise that money with fundraising efforts. Tree trimming needs to be done every year and that will be scheduled for after the first frost. The redesign is going to take some time. Dustin is meeting with the Assistant City Manager on the 18th to discuss the design. Dustin suggested a goal to have the garden revived by 2027. Cassy would like to get the vote on an agenda when he is ready to discuss in more detail.
- E. We have a card for Gerald Hancock and we will sign on Sunday at the meeting. His memorial gifted money to JSCC which will be used for the Royals tickets.

VII. Adjourn

- A. Meeting was adjourned at 7:09

Next Meeting: August 21st @ 6:00