INDEPENDENCE
MISSOURI
A GREAT AMERICAN STORY

# Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

**July 9, 2025 6:00 PM**

**Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.**

**WELCOME**

I. Roll Call/Call to Order
A. Chad Wisenhunt, Dustin Henrich, Katie Gall, Kim Osborne, Danijela Book, Laura Seigfreid, Sabastian Gonzalez, Jeannae Segura Brown, Patric Koon

**NEW BUSINESS**

II. Approve prior minutes
A. Danijela moved to approve the June meeting minutes as recorded and Laura seconded. All voting members in attendance voted to approve with a show of hands.

III. Japanese Delegate Exchange Plans
A. Proposed plans, if ready?
1. The proposed plan is ready with a few exceptions. Laura and Danijela have been working on the plan.
a) Danijela and Laura put together a spreadsheet and Danijela presented it to the group. She contacted all principals of local high schools, and the group will be visiting Van Horn and potentially Truman HS. Dates and times for all activities are in flux because they are waiting to hear back on discounts and donations for certain activities. Last year's budget was $5000 but Danijela anticipates this year will most likely cost less.
(1) Activities planned include: Wagon ride, Frontier Trails Museum, Van Horn High School, Sycamore Hills Elementary, Englewood Arts, Worlds of Fun, Crown Center, Union Station, Kansas City Zoo, World War I Memorial, Royal's Game, Mini Golf, Nelson Atkins, Arboretum, Oak Park Mall, Mayor's Brunch, Farewell Party, and more. Potential activities include the Community of Christ Temple and a fire station.
2. Students arrive on Sunday evening at 9 pm. Danijela is proposing a late start on Monday morning. We may need feedback from families to determine if that is attainable considering

their work schedules.

B. Vote to approve a budget, if ready?

1. Danijela moved to approve the expenditure of up to $5000 for JSCC sponsored activities during the exchange. Chad seconded and all voting members in attended voted yes via a show of hands.

C. Schedule an additional meeting, if needed?

1. Deemed unnecessary

IV. Host families update: recruiting updates

A. How many families confirmed?

1. Eight approved so far; two for a duration of half of the exchange each. Host families include lots of new families and some returning. Hosts include families of two delegates that represented Independence in Japan this summer. The families which will split time this summer will be out of town or unavailable for part of the exchange, so can't participate the entire time.

2. We are waiting to hear back from a couple of prospective families. So far, two students will be doubled up, but that might change based on if the potential host families sign up.

3. Feedback from alumni is that it will help to have the dates earlier and Dustin is taking note of that for next year. Some alumni volunteered to drive to and from activities which will be a big help.

4. Chad will help Dustin match the Japanese student delegates to the Independence host families.

a) The Japanese delegates are meeting on July 15th and want to have that information at the meeting.

b) Laura mentioned that we should add a photo of the host family to the bio sheet so that the delegate and their family can see who they will be staying with.

(1) Dustin mentioned that the Japanese delegates will receive contact information for the hosts and can communicate via email or other preference. He will investigate adding a place for a picture on the host family bio form for next year.

V. American Delegate Exchange Meeting

A. Dustin would like to schedule time at the Genealogy Center with the Independence students, Patric, and the committee to hear about their 2025 trip to Japan, see their pictures, then give a follow- up presentation on how they can stay connected to JSCC and continue to connect more with Japan if they want to

1. We would like to illustrate to the students that there are many ways to stay connected with our program and other Japanese programs in the area.

2. Jeannae recommended inviting alumni to the event. She estimates that five additional people will potentially attend.

3. Dustin is hoping to plan the event for July 30th because some of the delegates will be going to school or have other commitments after that date.

VI. Items from the floor

A. Sermon Center said we can use their building for the meeting location like we did last year.

B. Kim is checking on promo materials from the City to gift to the students. Katie will package them to present to the delegates.

C. Kim said that Mayor Rowland suggested having the brunch at the Chamber meeting room

this year. She will be out of town but will make all the arrangements. Dustin will coordinate with Danijela to choose the date.

D. Patric provided feedback on the exchange. He said that the experience was life changing, life affirming. He said the relationships they built were fulfilling and there is a desire to continue the experience. The hospitality and kindness plus established relationships were amazing. Patric is willing to help into the future and will join the committee if there is an opportunity.

E. Dustin started a group in Line (app) for communication. Line is a preferred app for our Japanese guests.

VII. items for next month's agenda

A. N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

VIII. Adjourn

A. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 20th, 2025