



Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

August 20, 2025 6:00 PM

<https://teams.live.com/meet/9340514050895?p=vw2IOl4Er0PfvjEu>

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

1. Meeting called to order at 6:05
 - a. Attendees
 - i. Dustin Henrich
 - ii. Danijela Nenadic
 - iii. Chad Wisenhunt
 - iv. Cassy Pallo
 - v. Katie Gall
 - vi. Laura Garcia-Siegfried
 - vii. Kim Osborne

II. APPROVE PRIOR MINUTES

1. July Meeting Minutes
 - a. Danijela moved to approve
 - i. Chad Seconded
 - ii. All voted their approval with a show of hands

III. JAPANESE EXCHANGE REVIEW

1. Exchange Recap
 - a. Exchange went great!

- i. Very social group that got close during the visit
 - ii. Tom was the chaperone and had an excellent experience
 - 1. He would like to come back again next year
 - a. He is asking HIFA (Higashimurayama City International Friendship Association) for approval to be chaperone next summer
- b. HIFA asks for a daily, detailed report
 - i. Tom is recommending that discontinue
 - ii. JSCC recommended someone from HIFA join the Line (app) group which would have served as a good tool for HIFA to monitor the daily activity of the group
 - 1. Additionally, JSCC (Danijela) generated an agenda each day which could have served as an outline for a daily report.
- c. Sunday was a tough day for the group to arrive.
 - i. If the group can arrive on Saturday, that will help the schedule and transition.
 - ii. The Japanese delegation would like to have a welcome party and farewell party. They like to exchange cards at the welcome party.
- d. Thank you to Danijela, Danilo, and Gwen for their efforts during and leading up to this summer's exchange.
 - i. Thank you to Laura, too, for her efforts.
- e. Scheduling
 - i. Dustin is sending a feedback form to the group to complete
 - 1. Please fill out the form to help improve the exchange for next year.
 - j. Some activities need to happen during the first week
 - 1. Example: Worlds of Fun is typically closed the second week of their visit.
 - 2. School visit from 12-3 is tough.
 - a. School visit would ideally be 8:30/9 – 12
 - 3. Nikki & JJ Kramer (Weatherby Lake) said that they can host a lake day next year
 - 4. Seeking morning activities
 - 5. Can Japan send the students one week earlier?
 - a. Can help with places that close approaching the school year
 - b. Can help attract host families (some take their kids to college around the time the exchange took place)
 - c. Dustin thinks there might be a scheduling conflict with the end of their school year
- f. Expenses
 - i. Receipts should be submitted to Chad via text or email.
 - ii. Is it possible to obtain an additional credit card?
 - iii. Patric purchased shirts for the Independence delegates
 - 1. Instead of being reimbursed, Patric suggested applying the money that he could have been reimbursed to Worlds of Fun tickets for

- the Independence delegates to enjoy the day with the Higashimurayama delegates
- 2. JSCC discussed whether or not that exchange of funds is acceptable and the consensus was that we can determine the appropriation of funds

IV. UPTOWN MATSURI DISCUSSION

- 1. Uptown Matsuri Planning
 - a. In the past, we've planned the event through Google Sheets
 - i. Dustin will update the form from last year, and will distribute to JSCC
 - ii. November 8th is the tentative date for the 2025 festival
 - iii. The proposed theme is a Fall Festival
 - iv. Many delegates and host families have volunteered to help with the festival
 - v. Kansas City Japan Festival (JSCC) is in October
 - 1. Dustin isn't worried about the proximity (time/distance)
 - vi. Start Time
 - 1. Jeannae suggested an earlier start time (Per Danijela's conversation with her offline)
 - a. Noon – 4:00 or 5:00 tentative timeframe
 - i. Setup starting at 11
 - b. Consider planning committee-run activities
 - i. Interactive and Educational
 - ii. Info booth with Q&A and photos of exchanges
 - iii. A student delegate panel on stage
 - 1. Use this as part of recruitment as it will be good timing with the interview and application process
 - c. Dustin will apply for a grant through Japan America Foundation

V. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

- 1. Dustin would like to research JSCC becoming a 501(c)(3)
 - a. Even though we have the account at the Truman Heartland Foundation, not all organizations allow that as an avenue to funding.
 - b. Some organizations see the funding going through an intermediary but if we have 501(c)(3) status, it will be easier
 - c. We will have to create a "Friends of" organization to start the process, JSCC itself cannot become a 501(c)(3)
 - i. See bylaws – it allows for this process
 - d. Laura can help navigate the initiative
 - i. She suggested beginning the process in January 2026
 - ii. Dusting suggested Chad (Treasurer) and Jeannae (Legacy) join Laura and Dustin as a subcommittee to initiate the process

2. Japanese Garden Update
 - a. Design has been completed by Japanese master gardener
 - i. \$120,000 to complete the design
3. KC Japan Fest Table
 - a. Do we have anything left to sell? Enough to stock KC Japan Fest and Matsuri?
 1. Cassy has a small amount and so does Jeannae
 - a. Not enough for a table at KC Japan Fest
4. 2026 Delegate Application Process
 - a. Dustin recommended simply updating the verbiage on the website and opening it soon so it's ready to start advertising.
 - i. September is a good goal to start recruiting
 1. Disting will be ready by the end of August
 - b. Social Media
 - i. We should create a YouTube video to advertise
 - ii. LinkedIn
 - iii. Instagram (update from Matsuri)
 - iv. Snapchat
5. Thank you and Follow-up
 - a. Danijela will compile a list of businesses to thank for their contributions to the Exchange on social media
 - b. Independence School District
 - i. PR – set up interviews in advance next year with ISD PR
 - c. Katie has some contacts at Chrisman

VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

VII. ADJOURN

1. Adjourn
 - a. Danijela moved to adjourn
 - i. Laura seconded

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025