

Bloomington-Normal Japanese Sister Cities Committee Meeting

Place: Central Illinois Regional Airport 2F Conference Room

Date: August 1, 2016

Members in attendance: Steven Campbell, Sanae Ferrier, Cindy Hansen, Mike McKnight, Leticia Montesdeoca, Catrina Murphy, Toyoka Nishihara, Ken Ota, Jesse Padilla, Darren Sampson, Mary Ann Schierman, Noha Shawki, Kyle Silver, Harriett Steinbach, Akiko Wilson

Members not in attendance: Teddy Amoloza, Robert Harrison, Dawn Sadicoff,

Absent without notice:

Guest(s):

Meeting was called to order at 6:32p.m. by Harriett.

- **Welcome Guests:**
Lauren, Nick and his parents
Lauren made presentation to the Board with her 10 months experience in Japan.
- **Meeting Minutes:**
 1. July meeting minutes to be reviewed at next meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Catrina
 1. July result was submitted and there is no issues. Move to approve by Mike, seconded by Laticia and approved.
- **Chair's report:**
September meeting place needs to be decided as Airport conference room is not available. Jesse will check Normal Library.
- **Senior High students to Asahikawa:** Akiko
 1. Asked Lauren to submit report.
 2. Meeting Nick twice a week for his Japanese. He will leave on Sept. 24 from BMI going through DFW and NRT to get to Asahikawa on the 25th close to midnight.
- **Senior High students from Asahikawa:** Reported by Sanae.
 1. Taisei arrived O'Hare and is on his way to Bloomington by the courtesy of host family who agreed to pick him up. He will need to get some basic things set up including the opening of bank account, registration and so on. Kyle will help in coordination with Sanae.
 2. Orientation to host families is done.
 3. Sanae suggested the review of the rules regarding the conduct by the students. Also the item that may need attention is the amount of stipend which has been set at \$140 for some time. Lunch money alone is \$3.50/day at school making \$70/month. Board decided to see the first couple of months how he will be doing and if adjustment is needed.
- **Junior Ambassadors to Asahikawa:** Reported by Toyoka

1. At least 2 students who travelled to Japan show interest in applying for high school exchange student program.
 2. Toyoka wants to have publicity brochure so she can hand out during Hello Japan program at Children's Discovery Museum.
- **Junior Ambassador from Asahikawa:** N/A
 - **Japanese Garden:**
 1. Steven received an estimate from Green View for cleaning up and adding some plants. Total amount proposed is a little over \$5K to \$6K depending on the time needed for cleaning work. General comments by the members show some concern on the high price estimate and the Board wants bids from other vendors. Steven will work with others for report in the next committee meeting.
 - **Long Range Planning:** N/A
 - **Publicity:**
 1. Darren made presentation at Daybreak Rotary Club on July 7.
 2. Labor Day parade: Ken will register for the parade. Need to check the availability of the car.
 - **Special Events:**

Welcome/Farewell party is on Aug. 7 at Tony Roma's at noon.
 - **Old Business:**
 1. Children's Discovery Museum Asahikawa day is on August 26 and 27 from 10am to 1pm for special activities.
 2. 55th Trip: Asahikawa responded with dates for official events and requested official members to be there on August 4th and 5th. So, we need to officially request both cities to reserve mayors' schedule and ask for other participants. Asahikawa is planning various activities during Aug. 1 through 5. So, we want to study visiting other cities and so forth for an extended time of stay in Japan. Toyoka will study further. Other things need to be worked out for publicity and so on.
 - **New Business:**

Ken explained his idea to hold MOCHI TSUKI by Japanese School on December 17 at Metcalf School. It is a traditional Japanese event prior to New Year and Ken wants to make it open to general public to introduce this event. He is wondering if Sister Cities can participate or co-sponsor the event. Harriett requested to come up with firm proposal including monetary expectation that might be needed to co-sponsor.

At 8:43p.m., Darren moved and Mike seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2016 Place T.B.D.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Ota.