

## ABILENE- OMITAMA SISTER CITY BOARD MINUTES FOR March 10, 2020

The Abilene Omitama sister city board meeting was called to order by Claire Anderson at 6:04 pm at the Abilene Public Library. The following board members were also in attendance: Corina Ryland, Scott Anderson, Kevin Unruh, Barb and Rick Johnson, and Mary Zey. Also, in attendance were Heather Unruh and Jerry Rankin, Friends of Sister City. Audrey Corbett, Andrea Taylor, and Marcus Rothchild, city liaison, were absent.

Approval of Agenda: Mary moved and Barb seconded to approve the agenda with the correction: Kokyo Taiko. All in favor.

Approval of February minutes: Barb moved to approve the minutes with following corrections: Donna Reynolds was in attendance, spelling of Yosakoi, \$50 for one car of gas plus \$20 per person for dinner (there were six people so \$120 +\$50 gas) and Mary seconded All in favor.

Comments and correspondence:

Omitama officially knows we aren't going to visit this summer. We will be going in 2021. Barb shared a letter from Gwyn Johnson in appreciation of the dancers and drummers.

Friends of sister city: Heather reported that Jerry and she went to the bank. We are under the community foundation, so they have to take that paperwork to the bank to do the name change to sign checks. (Corporate resolution) Jerry reported that \$546 was donated plus \$50 from the dancer and drummer's performance.

Japan Club: Jerry will meet with both grades on the 4th Friday of March.

Financial report: Kevin shared that we still have our budget of \$10,150; Marcus just paid the sister city international bill on the credit card.

Barb moved and Rick seconded to approve the financial report. All in favor.

Bills: Barb reported that the down payment was enough for the drummers since fewer drummers were able to attend and the consulate gave them a grant.

Mary moved that we pay the dancers \$200. Kevin seconded and all in favor. We will also need to pay for the ad in the Abilene Reflector newspaper.

Claire texted Marcus to please pay Barb \$200.

Claire shared information from the state level sister city. Our questions for them:

Who else in the state has a Japanese sister city? (we can share information and strategies). Do other cities host? Are there teachers from sister cities working in communities?

Abilene February event: We had about 150 people in attendance (There were many things going on that day including the KSU/KU basketball game, music festival, beautiful weather outside, wrestling.)

Suggestions for future; Need a better, more specific, step by step schedule for the day. Should we sell snacks at the end? We could use other social media besides facebook. (instagram, snapchat, twitter, etc). Heather will start a twitter account for sister city.

The board answered a survey for Barb about the day.

What's next? Another event like this?

Suggestions:

Barb will check with the consulate about funding; but their budget is April to April.

Signage

Cherry tree sign/ plaque

A street in Abilene Omitama Way

Newspaper: Put in a fact twice a month under the title "Our sister city."

Have a form at events to become a member of "friends" to gather names and emails

Silent auction? Dinner and raffle?

Event in the summer?

Curry Rice dinner?

International club day

Eisenhower Center collaboration June 6 around D day

After discussion the board decided to start with the curry rice dinner and silent auction. Mary

will check at St Andrews to use the parish hall on Sunday, July 12th (1st choice)

or 19th (second choice).

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at Abilene Public Library at 6 pm. Corina moved we adjourn and Barb seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Secretary,

Corina Ryland