



# KITAKATA SISTER CITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, 4/10/24 at 6:00 PM

Parks and Rec Admin Office, 29600 SW Park Place

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## CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board was held via Zoom beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2024. Adrienne Scritsmier called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., followed by roll call.

## PRESENT

Karen Kreitzer  
Adrienne Scritsmier  
Aaron Reyna  
Sammy Scarpone (virtual)

Seiji Shiratori  
Jenelle Reid  
Ashleigh Sumerlin

## ABSENT

Mike Bohlen  
Mas Yatabe

## STAFF PRESENT

Erica Behler

## CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approval of the Minutes:** Ashleigh Sumerlin made a motion to approve the March 13, 2024 Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board Minutes. Sammy Scarpone seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous consent.

## CITIZEN INPUT (N/A)

## BUDGET

- Erica said that board has \$6,000 left in the budget through June 30, 2024.
- The board had a brief discussion about various items they could pre-purchase to add some ceremony and formality to future trips such as logo folders, tote bags, Japan/USA pins, banners with both English and Japanese text, socks, etc...

## REVISIT GOALS DISCUSSION/STRATEGIC PLAN

- Review draft goals document
  - The Board revisited the 2024-2025 draft goals document and made some adjustments including:

- Adding a goal to address local community resources such as the consulate, JASO, rotary, etc...
    - Adding a goal to align our mission statement with the mission statement of the Aizu-Kitakata International Association (AKIA)
  - There was some discussion among the board about how to adjust and address the economic exchange piece of the board’s mission. Our counterparts (AKIA) are far less focused on economic exchange programs than the City of Kitakata itself. AKIA is the driving force behind the student exchange program, whereas the City of Kitakata is a separate government entity. The non-profit group, AKIA, is not housed within the City of Kitakata like our board is housed within the City of Wilsonville. It feels like, from the Councils trip in February, there are some competing interests between AKIA and the City of Kitakata.
    - The board discussed gathering web links to places where the Wilsonville community could buy Kitakata products and posting them on the board web page. ( <https://en-kitakata-kanko.jp/#why> )
- Japanese Garden Update
  - Aaron gave an overview of the work he’d been doing on the topic of a Japanese style garden in Wilsonville. He shared details about the meeting he had with Kris Ammerman (Parks and Rec Director), Dustin Schull (Parks Supervisor) and Erica Behler (Recreation Coordinator II). He shared that there are several locations he explored that won’t work at this time including Town Center Park, several areas in Murase Plaza, a piece of land adjacent to the library etc... due to future mater plans, park improvements, and conflict of activity (Ex: near water feature). The Parks and Recreation team will continue to try and identify possible sites for a project like this in the future. If appropriate and realistic sites are identified, the Parks and Recreation team will be sure to present that at a future board meeting.
- The topic of the Sister City Cherry Trees and Friendship stone in relation to the Korean War Memorial was brought up (has been brought up in previous meetings). Adrienne shared that at the Cherry Blossom event, an individual from the community brought it up and was asking about why they were so close together.
  - On this topic, Aaron shared that he felt the stone should be moved to an alternate location. He also said that if the stone cannot be moved, that the board/parks and rec department should consider reframing the idea of the park and naming the stage the International Friendship Stage when it gets its improvements/new location.
  - Erica shared she had concerns about moving the stone out of the park because of its relationship to the cherry trees (which cannot be moved).
    - Let’s think about presenting this to our counterparts in Kitakata to get their thoughts.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

- Adrienne mentioned the idea of having a Mayoral Declaration of Ramen Day – July 11, 2024 (celebrated in Japan on this day).

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm