

Kitakata Sister City Advisory Board Meeting Action Minutes
2.8.2023

Advisory Board Members Present:

Adrienne Scritsmier
Ashleigh Sumerlin
Tracy Sailors
Aaron Reyna
Seiji Shiratori
Jenelle Reid
Sammy Scarpone

Staff Present:

Erica Behler – Recreation Coordinator

Members of the Public Present:

None

AGENDA ITEM	ACTIONS
CALLED TO ORDER	6:02 pm
Minutes	Aaron moved to approve the 12.21.23 minutes, Adrienne seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval.
Public Comment	N/A
New Board Member Introductions	<p>Erica shared that the board has two new members. John (goes by Mike or Michael) Bohlen, and Jenelle Reid. Jenelle shared that she's lived in Wilsonville since 2017. She has two kids, one at Lowrie and one at Wood Middle School. Jenelle works as an Occupational Therapist. Jenelle also shared that she is half Japanese, and that her daughter is very interested in learning more about that side of their family culture.</p> <p>The rest of the board members introduced themselves, and how/why they first got involved with the sister city board.</p>
Budget Update	Seiji shared a brief budget update via spreadsheet. He updated the group that the board has spent roughly \$15k to date. With the reimbursement from Kitakata, this leaves us with roughly \$7k available to spend between the meeting date and June 30. Erica shared that the same budget of \$20k has been requested to the budget committee and council for the 23-24 fiscal year.
Upcoming Event- Sounds of Japan	<p>Erica shared that the upcoming event 'Sounds of Japan' will be held on March 18 at the Wilsonville Community Center at 10am. Oregon Koto-Kai, a Japanese Harp group will play from 10-11am, and Portland Taiko will play from roughly 11-11:30am. Erica also shared that roughly 90 participants had signed up as of the meeting date.</p> <p>Adrienne, Aaron, Jenelle, and Sammy shared in the chat that they attend to plan the event.</p> <p>Erica asked that if board members plan to bring a guest, to please have them register.</p> <p>The group chatted briefly about live streaming this event for counterparts in Japan, but realized the timing would be 3 AM in Kitakata. (We were also not able to livestream due to group restrictions). However, Erica plans to send pictures of the event to Kitakata.</p>
School Meetings Update	The group briefly discussed how the school meetings with Kitakata local schools have been going. Adrienne shared that she's been having a great time at the meetings, and feels like they're a great low barrier way to keep in touch.

	<p>Adrienne also shared ‘the friendship tree’ project at Kitakata City Hall. This is a display in their City Hall that’s a large image of a tree, and every leaf on the tree has an image from a zoom meeting we’ve had. It represents the growth of the relationship.</p>
<p>35th Anniversary Brainstorm</p>	<p>Erica shared that Megumi san from the International Association reached out and tasked the board with brainstorming some ideas that may be appropriate for the 35th anniversary of the sister city relationship. This anniversary event will take place online. The group thought creating some sort of sister city t-shirt that we send to Kitakata, and have Wilsonville council wear during the zoom meeting may be appropriate.</p> <p>Ashleigh shared that other big anniversary events such as 10 and 20 year, there has usually been some sort of delegation visit either to or from Kitakata.</p> <p>Aaron had the idea for a gift of a metal/laser etched picture of Mt. Hood, or the two cities logos together.</p> <p>Janelle mentioned that she’s seen permanent (what look like coins, but larger) cemented within a sidewalk or building to commemorate an event... etc. She mentioned having something like that installed in both Wilsonville and Kitakata so it had lasting permanence within each city.</p> <p>Ashleigh brought up a collaborative project the two cities could share. Potentially donating a piece of playground equipment, etc... something the citizens could interact with. Erica mentioned she wasn’t sure how that process would take place- need to think this through further.</p> <p>Seiji shared the idea of paying for some sort of tree that represents Oregon and having them plant it in Kitakata.</p> <p>Other ideas: Monuments Rocks Coins Having the same object/sign in both cities Plaques Sasquatch carving</p> <p>The group also began discussing the potential of sending Wilsonville mayor/council members to Kitakata and what a board trip might look like. Erica reminded the board that the board budget cannot pay for individual board members to travel to Japan, but I can go towards travel for mayor/council.</p>
<p>Board Comments</p>	<p>Erica shared that on Friday, February 17, folks at Kitakata City Hall and members of JASO are having a meeting via zoom. They reached out to see if someone from the board can speak to the sister city relationship. Ashleigh said she can represent the group at that meeting.</p> <p>Ashleigh asked if going forward all the meeting would be via zoom. Erica responded that the meeting will take place via zoom if, for some reason, a board member couldn’t make it unless it was on zoom. If Erica receives responses from everyone that they can make it in person, the meeting will be in person.</p>
<p>ADJOURN</p>	<p>7:11 pm</p>