

Bloomington-Normal Japanese Sister Cities Committee Meeting

Place: 11 Uptown Circle in Normal. Room 334

Date: February 7th, 2022

Members in attendance: Ryan Apple, Patrick Clapper, Jeff Kroesch, Dawn McBride, Darren Sampson, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Steven Campbell

Excused Absence: Kyle Silver, Ken Ota, Brenda Guest

Guest(s): Katherine Scheck

Meeting was called to order at 6:31p.m. by Darren Sampson

- Seven members in attendance. This confirms that a quorum is present. (Members in attendance as noted above.)

December 2021 Meeting Minutes: *Note the January meeting was cancelled so no January meeting notes to review*

- Board reviewed the minutes and Jeff moved to accept minutes as presented, seconded by Ryan and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: By Dawn

- No new items to report this month.
- The laptop and Office 365 bills will be presented next month as they have not shown up on the billing report.

Chairman's report and discussion: By Darren

- Steven Campbell is re-joining the committee.
- Currently in pre-planning mode for the 60th anniversary. We should use this time to work on infrastructure and new ways to work as a committee, so we are ready when the programs pick back up after covid.

Sub-committees Reports:

- Jeff is still reviewing the Japanese cultural information that Asia created but it is not quite ready yet. He will continue to work on it with the goal of having a lesson plan ready by the next committee meeting. Once that is completed the next step is to share the cultural information with a group of American students and then schedule a time for those students to meet with some Japanese students via a zoom call.

New Business:

- Rich S. who is the original chairperson for the committee established the domain site and has been funding it as a gift for the committee. However, that funding from Rich is coming to an end. The committee will need to start covering the cost of the domain site and other related expenses.

- In reviewing our new domain and website we may want to be more specific in our new name as other sister cities have similar names.
- When making the changes all our email addresses, pointers to the site, etc. will change so we need to keep that in mind and contact whomever may be impacted.
- Darren would like a group to meet with a local digital media and printing vendor to review the new website. He would like to schedule a meeting in February if possible and requested volunteers from the committee to attend the meeting with him.
- Steven mentioned he will look at the Japanese garden and he will reach out to Normal Parks and Rec about any needs. The committee would like to add something to the garden that is in some way related to Japan.

Old business:

- Jeff Distributed the contents of the care package from Japan.

At 7:20p.m. Jeff moved, and Ryan seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: March 7th, 2022, 6:30 pm at 11 Uptown Circle in Normal. Room 334

Respectfully submitted, Patrick Clapper