

## **Bloomington-Normal Japanese Sister Cities Committee Meeting**

**Place:** 11 Uptown Circle in Normal. Room 334

**Date:** March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

**Excused Absence:** Ken Ota, Dawn McBride

**Unknown Absence:** Kyle Silver, Brenda Guest

**Guest(s):** None

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

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

### **• February 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

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

### **• Treasurer's Report:**

No new items to report this month.

The laptop money still encumbered, not listed as paid

### **• Chairman's report and discussion: Darren**

New Business

A former exchange student contacted Darren and asked if we had records of his host family in Japan so he could reconnect with them. We had no records to provide this former exchange student.

In preparation for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary we need to develop our list of contacts which includes, host families and former exchange students so we can invite them to the celebration. A starting point for this list of contacts is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary invites. We can use this information as the start for the creation of a database for future reference.

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a 6 PM meeting with StarNet printing at their office. We will provide them with a basic list of printing services that we are looking for. The type of services needed will be for committee use/marketing use/60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

A former Asahikawa Sister City Chairman, Yamada Minoru, has passed away. Darren will work with Chizuko to prepare a response from the committee.

Darren has sent a thank you for the goodie bags that the Asahikawa Sister City sent us.

- **Sub-committees Reports:**

Jeff has been demoing Asian's lessons with a select group of students which seems to be going well. These students seem interested in a zoom call with Asahikawa students. The best location for this zoom call would probably be at one of the libraries in town. Jeff's thought on the timeline for this zoom call is early May.

- **New business:**

As a part of Asian heritage month University High School emailed us and asked if we could provide some Japanese cultural items as they currently have no Japanese students. Jeff will contact University High School to better determine what type of activities they are looking for. Chizuko will discuss this request with a group of Japanese ladies she will meet with on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to see if they would be willing to provide assistance.

Avery Park a former Junior Ambassador is looking for a mentor to help with some cultural items as part of an assignment for his school. Darren will assist Avery where needed.

If Japan is accepting visitors by late summer, we will research the feasibility of organizing an executive trip to help re-establish relations with their committee. We will need to continue to watch the Japanese COVID policies and make a decision if travel to Japan becomes feasible again.

- **Old business:**

The laptop is working well and is providing the type of functionality needed by the committee.

At 7:06 Ryan moved, and Steven seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting is adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6:30 pm at 11 Uptown Circle in Normal. Room 334

Respectfully submitted, Patrick Clapper