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

**Place:** Central Illinois Regional Airport Conference Room 1

**Date: October 2nd, 2023**

**Members in attendance: Jeffrey Kroesch, Veronica Kroesch, Chizuko Tsukamoto, Bennet Morris, Katherine Scheck, , Dawn McBride,** Brenda Guest, Noah Davidson, Ryan Apple

**Excused Absence**: Darren Sampson, **Steven Campbell, Eric Sweetwood**

**Guest(s):** Sarah Adelman

Attendance notes: Meeting was called to order by Jeff Kroesch

* 9 members in attendance. This confirms that a quorum is present.

(Members in attendance as noted above.)

• **Roll call of attendees**: 9 members in attendance. This confirms that a quorum is present (We need 5 people there = ½ the members (9) + 1). (Members in attendance as noted above.)

•**September Meeting Minutes: Approved Motioned by Brenda, seconded by Dawn**

Treasurer’s report: Google charges have gone up to $66 a month going forward. Those are the webservices for our email and website. Flowers sent to funeral, and a vaccination for Sana required by school. September budget motioned by Veronica, seconded by Bennett and all approved. Dawn will submit a draft of the committee budget for fiscal year and going forward to City of Bloomington after meeting. We may propose an increase in funding due to current rates of inflation and may be needed if still want to add another student to the High School trip.

Motion to approve proposal for budget increase: Motioned by Kat, approved by Bennett, all in favor of approving.

Junior to: No news

Junior from: No news

New business:

Chairman Report: No new news about the tree. Jeff will reach out to Asahikawa to discuss adding another student for a high school trip. We will investigate if Ken can still tutor Japanese for the student going to Asahikawa or perhaps Sanae down the road.

Highschool from: Sana is doing fine; she is starting to open up a bit more. We need host family coverage for Christmas time. As well as finding a new family before spring break happens, the current host family will be traveling when their kids have spring break.

Highschool to: Arisa seems to be doing fine and has been updating her blog. We will need to begin selection of next student in the next couple months.

Junior from Asahikawa: No new news

Junior to Asahikawa: Meeting is scheduled for Nov 9th at junior high school to inform student about program. Jeff is working on the application. Will set up sub committee in last week of February for selection of students.

New/old business:

Chizuko wanted to discuss what went well or not from the anniversary event. The long walk wasn’t the best, as there are a lot of older members and walking a long distance was not easy. Some old committee members didn’t realize about the event, some said they did not receive an invitation. So we need to organize a good directory of former members and students. We could use a group chat to help update on small/quick changes to itinerary that happened last minute and led to some confusion. Some thought the translator wasn’t as professional as some may prefer. There are other options for translating services we can investigate in the future. Some things to work on for the next time.

December meeting will be our yearly picture, so dress for it please

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Vote to dismiss Kat, seconded by Bennett at 7:42pm