

ABILENE- OMITAMA SISTER CITY BOARD MINUTES FOR February 12, 2024

The Abilene Omitama sister city board meeting was called to order by Claire Anderson at 6:01 pm at the Abilene Public Library, Jordan Room. The following board members were also in attendance: Corina Ryland, Audrey Corbett, Kevin Unruh, Bill Marshall, Eric Anderson, and Kim Shafer (new board member). Also in attendance were Leann Johnson from the city and Heather Unruh from Friends of Sister City. Andrea Taylor and Cindy Whittington were absent. Jerry Rankin (Japan club) and Ron Marsh were absent.

Approval of Agenda: Claire moved to start with Friends of sister city after the minutes approval and that Bylaws be moved to next month's meeting and Eric seconded; all in favor. Corina moved to approve the agenda with those two changes. Bill seconded. All in favor.

Approval of minutes of January meeting: Eric moved and Audrey seconded. All in favor.

Friends of sister city: Heather reported that she and Donna Reynolds are going to do a sushi making class from 3pm to 5pm on Saturday, April 20th at the Rec Center. (They have the room from 2pm-6pm.) They will make California and fried chicken rolls. Bill made a motion to set a \$50 budget from the board to help with purchases, if Friends can't pay for items. Eric seconded and all in favor. Claire will check with M and M tire sign for advertising this event. Bill will ask Ritter's and Heather will ask Countrymart.

Public comments and correspondence: Bill said Sam G did a presentation at DAR about the boat going to Japan.

News from Omitama: Azuki confirmed the mayor, chairman of city council, and director of citizen cooperation development will arrive on the 28 and leave on the 31st. She wanted to be sure that dates were July 28- August 10th. Claire said yes. They want to send 15 students and 4 adults. 22 total. Azuki will check on the hotel for the three staying three days. Claire will tell them we can do 15 students but will ask them if one student would be comfortable staying alone.

Valentine Cards: Chiho and Harumi sent emails thanking the board for the Valentine cards and treats. They also shared that Kevin's host family Chitose Fuykaya Susanna are two new members of Noibara. Bill received a note from his second host family.

Financial report: Kevin reported We have \$10,000. We have not received a bill from Jerry for sushi. \$13,347 is the balance in the scholarship fund. Corina moved we accept Kevin's financial report. Bill seconded. All in favor.

Japan club: Jerry was absent. No report.

Old business:

Corina did talk to Mel about First Christian Buses. Mel will get back to us.

Business signs Claire has not done this yet.

Water: Claire visited with Jim Lindsay of Longford. She will ask him to use Bob Bow's information for the account. She also gave him Leann's number.

Banners: Claire shared a sign her daughter created. Corina moved that we use Elizabeth's sign and see if Dawn can duplicate it. Audrey seconded. All in Favor. Leann will take it to Dawn. Kim suggested that Leann ask if she could also make a tee shirt like that for the delegation.

Meeting change. After discussion, Bill moved we change the meetings to the second Wednesday of each month starting at 6pm. Kim seconded and all in favor.

Host family recruitment: Corina shared previous host guidelines and suggestions from 2018.

Movie: Bill said for the Wizard of Oz movie at the theater they have captioning but didn't know if Japanese was available.

New Business:

Bill has the granite stone of the 10-year anniversary. Leann will ask the city if we can put it by the boat.

Bylaws tabled until next month.

Schedule: Eric started a schedule. Corina gave Eric Lazy heart Bison Ranch contact information, previous payments, surveys from 2018 and a copy of last year's schedule.

Kim will check with Danette Whitley about getting the pool for a picnic and swim host family change day.

Claire will email Meredith Sleichter about the welcome dinner.

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00pm at the Abilene Public Library, Jordan Room. Bill made a motion to adjourn and Audrey seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm and those who wanted to help, took inventory of the three boxes stored at the city offices.

Corina Ryland, Secretary

Inventory: Corina took one box for welcome bags. The second box has random items for donations/fundraiser or Japan club. The third box has a calligraphy poster and welcome decorations that we are not sure we will need this year, if we use the Eisenhower center. Claire will return the two boxes to the city office storage.