

Abilene-Omitama Sister City Board
March 12, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Jordan Room, Abilene Public Library

Agenda for Board Meeting:

- I. Call to order.
- II. Changes to agenda/Approval of agenda
- III. Approval of minutes of February 2025 meeting
- IV. Public comments, correspondence
 - A. Sister City International
 - B. News from Omitama
- V. Friends of Sister City – Heather Unruh
- VI. Japan Club – Jerry Rankin
- VII. Financial report
 - A. Income/expense report for December 2025
- VIII. Review delegate applications
 - A. Decide on delegates
 - B. Total number of adults
 - C. Informational meeting times
- IX. Adjourn – Next meeting is April 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Abilene Public Library.

ABILENE-OMITAMA SISTER CITY BOARD MINUTES February 12, 2025

Call to Order: The Abilene-Omitama Sister City Board Meeting was called to order by Kevin Unruh at 6:00PM at the Abilene Public Library. The following board members were also in attendance: Corina Ryland, Kim Shafer, Audrey Corbett, Cindy Whittington, Jennifer Hagar, Jennie Hiatt, and Mary Montgomery. Also present were Ron Marsh (Abilene City Representative) and Heather Unruh (Friends of Sister City); Claire Anderson was unable to attend as she was under the weather.

Changes/Approval of Agenda: Delete Item 9 (Friends was already listed under 6). Item 10 : Eight plus 4 is 12 delegates. Add C under item 10 - Plan dates for interview with delegates. Corina moved we approve agenda as corrected. Audrey seconded. All in favor.

Approval of minutes of December 2024 meeting: (There was no January meeting due to the blizzard). Cindy moved we approve the December minutes. Kim seconded. All in favor.

Welcome new board members: Jennifer Hager, Jennie Hiatt, and Mary Montgomery have joined the board.

Public comments, correspondence:

Sister City International: Claire received information that she forwarded in an email to Kevin. There is a youth program in Washington DC, June 15 to 21, for ages 14 to 18. The deadline is March 1st. The cost is \$1800 and does not include travel. After discussion including cost, short notice, timing, interest, and the possibility of going on off years; Corina moved that we wait until next year and see if it is an ongoing event. Audrey seconded. All in favor.

News from Omitama: No official news.

Friends of Sister City: Heather shared that Andrea joined Friends of Sister City and will be a contact person with Heather. (Thank you Kim for doing that job and moving over to the board.)

Japan Club: Jerry Rankin was absent but sent a message that there was no meeting last month so there is nothing to report.

Financial report: Kim is our new treasurer. She had no information. She will contact LeAnn. There were no bills.

Income/expense report for December 2025: We will discuss it next month. Ron said there should not be any changes to our budget.

Review delegate applications: Since LeAnn was not at the meeting Corina did not have all of the applications. She shared that we had an application from a student in a wheelchair. He would be a great ambassador but we need to see if there is a home that can accommodate him. Omitama office asked that we send 12 members. (Four adults and eight students). Corina believes we have applications from 8 students and one adult. We are hoping Claire will be able to go and Audrey and Kevin said they would gladly go with her. Corina will pick up applications from LeAnn tomorrow and contact applicants to set up appointments for interviews on Saturday, March 1st at the library between 9 and noon. Kevin, Corina, Audrey, Mary, and Cindy can attend interviews. Any other board members who would like to sit in are also welcome. Corina will send an email to the board once she has confirmed a time slot for each applicant. Corina will make copies of applicants' essays and letters of recommendation for board members to read before interviews. Corina will also make copies of the interview questions. Ron will check with the city commissioners to see if there is an interest in traveling to Japan.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Abilene Public Library, Jordan Room. Corina made a motion to adjourn, and Cindy seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Corina Ryland, Secretary