

Bloomington-Normal Japanese Sister Cities Committee Meeting

Place: CIRA Airport Conference Room

Date: May 7, 2018

Members in attendance: Sanae Ferrier, Jeff Kroesch, Catrina Murphy, Toyoka Nishihara, Ken Ota, Darren Sampson, Noha Shawki,

Excused Absence: Steven Campbell, Dawn Sadicoff, Akiko Wilson

Absent without notice: Robert Harrison, Kyle Silver

Guest(s): Sally Modine, Dawn McBride, Melissa Hon (Assistant to the City Manager of Bloomington)

Meeting was called to order at 6:34p.m. by Darren.

- Darren welcomed Melissa Hon to the meeting. Melissa will try to attend as many meetings as possible as long as time allows. It is her objective to keep the line open between the city and the committee so there will not be any disconnect between the parties.
- **Meeting Minutes:**
 1. Minutes for April was presented and it was moved to accept, with one correction of guest name, by Jeff seconded by Toyoka. Then it was approved unanimously.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Reported by Catrina
 1. March and April reports were submitted.
 2. JA From expenses were summarized and reported as a part of April report. Limousine cost is the majority of expenses and it was reduced almost to half of what it used to be. It helped achieving the goal of cost reduction that was the intent of current committee.
- **Chairman's report:**
 1. Dawn McBride will be nominated by Bloomington city council on 5/14/18. Application for Brenda Guest, Cody Hendrix (both Bloomington) and Sally Modine (Normal) are in the process. (As of 5/1/18 there are 7 from Bloomington and 5 from Normal)
 2. Our meeting minutes are updated on the website which is one of things the committee needs to comply based on the city's requirement.
 3. June meeting will be on 6/4/18 and both Darren/Toyoka are out on JA trip. So, Catrina will chair the meeting.
 4. Minami's farewell party is on the 19th at St Luke Union Church. Please try to attend.
 5. Steven is not able to attend today but sent an information about the garden via email. Weeding schedule is set and next scheduled day is 5/12/18 (9:30am), followed by 6/10/18 (12:30). Appreciate any help from the members and families.
 6. This is Toyoka's last committee meeting after more than 13 years of service and Darren expressed his sincere appreciation to her dedication and commitment over the years. Toyoka will move to Phoenix, ARI in July following her duty as chaperon to JA trip to Asahikawa in early June.
- **Senior High students to Asahikawa:** Reported by Noha and Ken
 1. Mitchell: Blog for April report is updated. He is coming back on 6/10/18 at O'Hare and to be picked up by his parents.
 2. 2018-19 Asia: Ken is continuing her work on Japanese, once every week. Appointment with Mary Anne to go to History Museum was postponed. Darren will find time to sit

down with Asia and her parents to go over the basic rules sometime in June.

- **Senior High students from Asahikawa:** Reported by Sanae
 1. Minami's remaining time is getting short with her departure at the end of the month. She went to Minnesota with host family.
 2. 2018-19 Chiyu Kato: A candidate for host family is found and Sanae will talk with them to discuss details soon.

- **Junior Ambassadors to Asahikawa:** Jeff reported
 1. Preparation for Japan visit is going on well, including dance performance as entertainment.

- **Junior Ambassador from Asahikawa:** N/A

- **Special Events:**
 1. Decided not to attend Memorial Day Parade this year because of scheduling conflict.

- **Japanese Garden:** N/A

- **Long Range Planning:** N/A

- **Publicity:** N/A

- **Old Business:**
 1. Darren has been working with his mother to make Happi coat for the events. He just found out State Farm Good Neighbor Grant has been granted and the money was sent. So, he would like to move ahead on this project.

- **New Business:** n/a

At 7:35 p.m., Toyoka motioned and Sanae seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2018 at Airport Conference Room

Respectfully submitted, Ken Ota.