

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

**Place: Zoom Meeting**

**Date: September 14, 2020**

**Members in attendance:** Ryan Apple, Jeff Kroesch, Dawn McBride, Sally Modine,  
Darren Sampson, Ken Ota,

**Excused Absence:** Laura Tepen, Kyle Silver, Patrick Clapper, Brenda Guest, Chiko Tsukamoto,

**Absent without notice:**

**Guest(s):** Katherine Scheck

Meeting was called to order at 6:50p.m. by Darren Sampson.

- **Chairman's report and discussion:** by Darren
  1. Noha resigned from the board position in July. She will be pursuing a number of other personal and professional activities and opportunities over the next few years.
  2. Kaylee withdrew from HS exchange student to Asahikawa for 2021-22. So, it would make an opening for 2021-22, and we will have to make decision how to proceed. In ordinary situation the selection process would have to start sometime in October to make selection in mid November. There are many issues to proceed in usual way this time. Pandemic situation makes it quite uncertain if making the trip possible or to find host families. Since all public schools are in remote classes we are not sure about the effectiveness of advertising among potential candidates. One idea is to postpone the selection process by a couple of months or so. The board cannot make decision in any way at this time.
  3. Asahikawa will need to decide 2021 Junior trip whether or not to proceed in 6 weeks or so. Most of the comments made during discussion seem to lead to negative recommendation from the U.S. side about the trip next year. One thing we decided was to check ACES how they the situation and ask if they have any recommendation for the exchange program. Ryan will check with them.
  4. Darren wants to have face to face dialog with Asahikawa committee members via Zoom for discussing current and near future situation. Darren will work on the agenda items and will propose Asahikawa committee accordingly.
  5. The Board, then, discussed how to keep connection and relationship with Asahikawa under current unique situation so that we won't lose the momentum that kept us friends for over 58 years. Few ideas were suggested such as to plan the cultural exchange virtually, to propose penpal relationship, to share photography, and so on. Darren encourages every member to come up with more idea in this line so we can continue explore future possibilities.
- **Treasurer's Report:** by Dawn
  1. Need to submit projected budget by October 31st. They also need update for current fiscal year. Dawn will prepare both data by October meeting.

At 7:47 p.m., Jeff motioned, and Dawn seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: October 5, 2020 6:30 pm** at Airport Conference Room or Zoom, to be decided.

Respectfully submitted, Ken Ota.