

ABILENE- OMITAMA SISTER CITY BOARD MINUTES FOR February 13, 2023

The Abilene Omitama sister city board meeting was called to order by Bill Marshall at 6:00 pm at the Abilene Public Library Jordan room. The following board members were also in attendance: Corina Ryland, Cindy Whittington, Kevin Unruh, Jerry Rankin. LeAnn Johnson and Ron Marsh, city manager, were also in attendance. Heather Unruh, friends, was also in attendance. Mary Jean Eisenhower, Audrey Corbett and Andrea Taylor were absent. Visitor, Eric Anderson was also in attendance; he would like to be a board member when there is a vacancy.

Approval of Agenda: Corina moved to approve the agenda as edited (added Bench plaque) and Kevin seconded. All in favor.

Approval of minutes of January: Jerry moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Cindy. All in favor.

Public comments, correspondence: Heather asked that we help out a Japanese lady at the the Eisenhower center with a ride in bad weather. Bill agreed to do this.

Bill has been corresponding with Jeffrey to help with translation and has also connected with John Okajima to help with English. After May 8th Japan is lifting many Covid restrictions and will begin treating it like the seasonal flu but travelers will still need three vaccination shots. There will be no isolation or quarantine.

Eric Anderson ALT for two years when it was Minori. Knows Chiho and Harumi. Eric's mother has a fund and included in the little Ike park banners will be one for sister city.

Financial report: Kevin shared \$9971.15 is left in our budget. \$6241 has been set aside for scholarships and \$3000 for the boot expenses. Corina moved to approve the financial report; Claire seconded. All in favor.

Friends of Sister City: Bill asked about funds. Heather explained monies.

Japan Club: Jerry met Thursday last week with 23 students who learned about sumo.

Old business:

Trip Bill shared email messages from Jeffery who sent a link about Covid law and Azuki Bob Bow has the Minori bench plaque. Bill will get it.

Ron says Wendy Miller would be interesting in going to Omitama as the city representative.

Bill asked board members for volunteers and Corina would be willing.

Jerry found a new price of \$1952 traveling from KC to Chicago to Haneida. If fewer than 10 travel, all of this changes.

The boot is being made in March and will be ready by July

We discussed having a more than one meeting and decided to wait and see. If we need to call a special meeting we 24 hour notice. (3 board members must approve via email)

Next meeting: 2nd Monday of the month . March 13th 6:00pm at the Abilene Public Library Jordan Room. Corina made a motion to adjourn and Kevin seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm