

ABILENE- OMITAMA SISTER CITY BOARD MINUTES FOR August 14, 2023

After Corina passed out gifts to board members from friends in Omitama, the Abilene Omitama sister city board meeting was called to order by Bill Marshall at 6:04 pm at the Abilene Public Library, Jordan Room. The following board members were also in attendance: Corina Ryland, Audrey Corbett, Claire Anderson, Andrea Taylor, and Kevin Unruh.

Friends of sister city co-treasurers Kim Shafer and Heather Unruh were both also in attendance. LeAnn Johnson was also in attendance later in the meeting.

Absent were: Mary Jean Eisenhower, Eric Anderson, Cindy Whittington, Jerry Rankin (Japan club) and Ron Marsh.

Approval of Agenda: Corina moved to approve the agenda with the addition of report from Japan trip. Andrea seconded. All in favor.

Approval of minutes of July: Andrea moved to approve the minutes and Audrey seconded. All in favor.

Public comments, correspondence: See below for Corina's report

Financial report: Kevin reported that we are negative 2781.

Travel/ fuel receipts need to be submitted for taking delegates to and from the airport.

LeAnn came in during this report and will double check to confirm: Did Eric's tickets come out of our budget/? (That needs to be changed). Jada and Kira paid city for their tickets; was that added back into the budget? LeAnn will give us a report next month.

Friends of Sister City: Heather and Kim were in attendance and reported that roses will be put in the garden for Gwyn Johnson and Cliff Gibbs (past board members who played pivotal roles on the board and both passed away this year).

Japan Club: None. Jerry was absent.

Old business:

Boot: The total boot was \$1500 (making, artwork and finish) and shipping was \$400 for a total \$1900. Left over money will go to the the scholarship as previously discussed.

We need to look up terms that end in 2023. Do they want to continue?

New Business: We need to check on when was the signing of the sister cities.

Corina gave the present from Omitama to Abilene to Bill who will present it at the next commissioners meeting, which will be on Aug 28. Bill will get us on the agenda.

Corina gave report of meeting in Japan.

In Omitama the following were present at the meeting: Azuki and her team (Joe, Hiki, Mr Hasegawa, and Mr. Takanori), Noibara members, Tomi Tonouchi, Masami, and Chiho; and from Abilene Corina, Jeffrey, Eric. Eric invited the Mayor to come to Omitama. Azuki will pass along the message but students are first priority for delegations. Corina asked what they like to do in Abilene. Azuki said

Old Abilene Town, Eisenhower Center, feeding bison, rodeo and parade are a MUST!

(and Chiho, Tomi and Masami agreed) Azuki also liked the sunflower painting, lavender farm and shopping. They also think Wizard of Oz and story should be shared.

They thought our trip of 10 days was short and suggested 12-14.

40th anniversary: Can we do two groups? (Like in 96?)

In the summer they want to send students. They would like to send adults in October to celebrate the 40th anniversary. Possibly 3 -5 days of 8 to 10 adults.

Corina asked them if they needed any brochures books, pictures etc from us for the the October International Day and they said they would let us know.

We suggested, if possible, the office worker would stay on longer or have an overlap year for training their replacement so we can have a better bond. It would be beneficial for both cities if the office worker could stay on for more than 2 or 3 years.

They want to start the ALT program again and have asked Jeffrey to return. They would like to continue ALT and send one to us; Corina said if anytime this is the time to research it.

They want to make promotion videos of each city for TV (like cable channel two) to exchange.

They LOVED boot. Corina told them they have the left one and the right one is in Abilene so we have a foot in each country and that it was for the 40th anniversary. We did not want them to have to worry about bringing it back.

Discussion about the Japan meeting: Heather suggested we get a grant and work with Mitzi on an Ike program. Should we invite the drummers back? Could B Adams use his drone to make videos for us for Japan? We need to get kids involved in sharing culture (football practice? Tennis? Baseball? Basketball pool? Pingpong at the rec?)

Host families: We need to start thinking about next year. It was suggested that we ask churches, Kiwanis and 4h.

40th anniversary signing and proclamation. Bill made a motion to buy a banner for 40th anniversary and will find out the cost.

Bill shared that Shannon Dick in Garden City wants to take his family and live 6-8 weeks in Japan and learn about government.

Next meeting: The next meeting is September 11th, at 6:00pm at the Abilene Public Library, Jordan Room. Corina made a motion to adjourn and Audrey seconded. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Corina Ryland, Secretary

After the meeting we found the scrap books and confirmed the original signing was in October of 1984.