

Sister Cities Lawrence

Governing Board Meeting

October 11, 2023, Minutes

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| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Ken Albrecht, Bill Keel, Jan Miller (virtually), James Hilliard (virtually), Kathleen Hodge (virtually) |
| MEMBERS ABSENT: | Bob Schumm, Sheri Hamilton, Kelly Scholz, Lisa Larsen, Diana Carlin |
| CITY LIAISON: | Stephen Mason |
| GUESTS PRESENT: | Sara Lechtenberg-Kasten, Frank Baron, Carmen Ching |

Keel opened the meeting at 5:42 pm in the conference room of the Watkins Museum.

Meeting Materials Provided:

- Meeting agenda
- Website committee report
- September draft minutes
- Publicity report

Announcements and Guests

- Sara Lechtenberg-Kasten, Frank Baron and Carmen Ching were present as guests.
- Annual Membership Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 13, at 8:00 pm following the December governing board meeting at Watkins Museum. Nominations for the positions of secretary and treasurer need to be solicited. Hamilton is not running for reelection. We need to determine if Carlin wishes to run for secretary. Friends of Hiratsuka needs to elect its representative prior to the general meeting. Keel will designate two board members to solicit nominees for secretary and treasurer. Hilliard was asked to hold a meeting to select the representative from Friends of Hiratsuka.
- Keel mentioned that explanatory letters about the Eutin exchange were sent to the principals of Lawrence High School and Lawrence Free State High School following the September board meeting.

Approval of September 2023 Minutes

- Albrecht moved and Hodge seconded approval of the September minutes as submitted. Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee—no report

Public Relations Committee-Miller

- Miller reported that Austin Hornbostel of the LJW informed her that his piece on the Eutin exchange, including an interview with 3 of the students from Eutin, will appear later this week in the paper. Albrecht noted that the piece is already online.

Financial Aid Committee

Santiago Gonzalez Camacho (Hiratsuka exchange 2023) has been designated the awardee of the scholarship from the Breakfast Optimists. Carlin and Hilliard will work to have him visit a meeting of the Optimists to express appreciation.

Chira Jorkthongkam (Eutin exchange 2023) has been designated the awardee of the scholarship from Central Rotary. Keel and Albrecht will determine if a visit by Chira to the Rotary meeting is desired.

Fundraising Committee

The International Trivia Night will be scheduled in spring 2024.

Chaperone Committee

Hodge reported that the chaperones for the 2024 student trips will begin the vetting process shortly.

FOI –no change in status

FOH (Friends of Hiratsuka)—Hilliard

- Recruitment of students for 2024 continues.

FOE (Friends of Eutin)—Albrecht

- Albrecht reported that the 12 German students with their chaperone Philipp Loose of the Weber High School in Eutin arrived on September 22 and will depart on October 12.
- On October 3 the group was introduced to the City Commission and then had a pizza reception at Watkins Museum. Albrecht thanked all those involved, especially those who helped prepare the gift bags for the students and their chaperone. Two of the students and Philipp Loose were interviewed on KLWN's "According to the Record" that aired on October 10. In addition to a KU Campus Tour on October 5, the students also went to a KU football game. The group will spend a few days in New York City before returning to Germany.
- Our 35th anniversary delegation plans to travel to Eutin in mid-June 2024. Frank Baron spoke about the trip and a plan that includes concerts by two pianists (Carman Ching and Yi Chang) and two vocalists (Hugo Vera and Hayley Shoemaker). Baron envisions two concerts at a suitable venue in Eutin (St. Michael's Church) as our gift from the City of Lawrence to Eutin. One concert would be by the two pianists; the second by the two vocalists accompanied by Carmen Ching. The board supports exploring this possibility. Albrecht will contact Friends of Lawrence in Eutin to explore the feasibility of this type of a gift from Lawrence to Eutin.

New Business—Potential New Sister City: Tocopilla, Chile

- Sara Lechtenberg-Kasten presented a Powerpoint about her efforts to explore the possibility of a sister-city relationship between Lawrence and Tocopilla, Chile. She has secured the support of a broad range of individuals in Lawrence for this possibility. Lechtenberg-Kasten was encouraged to continue her efforts and to reach out to additional members of the Lawrence community who may be interested in this type of sister-city relationship within the framework of the U.S. Department of Energy's **Net Zero World Initiative**.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next meeting is November 8, 2023, at 5:30 pm at the Watkins Museum Community Room.

Submitted by

William Keel, chair