

Sister Cities Lawrence

Annual Membership Meeting

9 December 2020 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Bill Keel, Nancy Keel, Ken Albrecht, Sheri Hamilton, Melissa Johnson, Amy Meyers, Kelly Scholz, Arne Scholz, Jan Miller, Diana Carlin, Bob Schumm, Joe Pierron, Ralph Gage, Graham Kreicker, Carol Shankel, Kevin Boatright, Courtney Shipley, Phyllis Farrar, James Hilliard

Guests Present: Frank Baron

Meeting Materials Provided: Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting

Chair Bill Keel called the meeting to order at 7:08. The meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic.

Announcements and Guests:

Keel reminded the Friends groups that our bylaws require two meetings per year. Due to the pandemic, Eutin and Hiratsuka have not met. Iniades has met to work on a potential visit from a delegation.

Frank Baron attended as a guest.

Minutes

Kreicker moved to accept as presented; Kelly Scholz seconded. Passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Hamilton and K. Scholz provided a financial report. Hamilton provided the November 30 report. This included: Intrust Savings \$14,498.18, Intrust Checking \$13,790.01, Intrust Scholarship \$24,271.40, and Envista CD \$31,047.44. and Total deposit is \$83,607.03

K. Scholz presented the 2020 annual budget with the budgeted vs actual for income and expenses through November 30, 2020.. Kreicker asked if the scholarship funds are in a CD. K. Scholz responded that it is in a regular account. The Envista CD earned over \$1000 for a year that will roll into other accounts.

Committee Reports

Keel explained the new committee structure starting last January. Keel introduced Phyllis Farrar who chairs the new website committee. Sterling Moody was contracted to design the site and assist with maintenance. A publicity committee headed by Bob Moody was also created.

Website Committee—Farrar

The committee was created in February. The site was designed in two phases using material from the previous site and contributions from governing board and other members. There are continuous updates. The major features are About, News, and sections for each of the cities. The most recent news is posted on the home page but there is an archive under the news tab for

everything posted previously. One of the features was about all the couples who met because of the exchanges. Another is of the 30th Eutin anniversary. The logo was developed in collaboration with the publicity committee. The About page has a list of the governing board, committee chairs, and links to all the policies and forms, bylaws, original agreements with the three cities, local resources, and minutes of governing board and annual meetings. The membership page has information about all the categories and a button for donations. Each city page has resources about the city and highlights of sister city activities with a photo gallery.

Phase 2 is in development. It will include a timeline page for each of the cities. Feedback is good. There were 1844 visits in 7 months to sistercitieslawrence.org

Publicity Committee-Ralph Gage for Bob Moody

This committee was established in February. Gage represented Moody. Gage thanked Farrar and her committee and Sterling Moody for their work. Bob Moody provided information about the marriage, provided information about the history of Hiratsuka for the 30th, news release about suspension of travel due to COVID. Keel, Schumm, and Gage wrote articles for the Eutin newspaper about life in Lawrence. Bob Moody was on KLWN in May about SCL. Moody worked with the LJW to do an insert, but it has been put on hold due to the pandemic and difficulty of raising funds.

Chaperone Committee—Albrecht and Johnson

The committee is chaired by Hans Carttar. The committee which includes Albrecht, Schumm, and Johnson developed suggestions for resuming exchanges. Everything is paused for 2021. Criteria from CDC and from partner cities will provide guidance. The purpose is to look toward 2022 with a set of policies that will provide confidence for parents and students.

Membership Committee—Meyers and Miller

Reinvigorated the committee. The work by the website committee and the treasurer provided support. Current and past members from 2018 and 2019 received renewal notices. Former participants will be contacted to join. There is a better system in place to track information.

Election of Officers—Albrecht

Albrecht chaired the nominating committee. Two officers are up for a new term—Diana Carlin for Secretary and Sheri Hamilton for Treasurer. Miller moved and Meyers seconded to approve by acclamation. Keel congratulated and thanked everyone for their hard work during a difficult year.

Johnson presented James Hilliard as the nominee for a three-year term on the governing board. Scholz moved to elect by acclamation, Johnson seconded. Passed. Keel congratulated the governing board members.

Friends of Hiratsuka—Johnson and Shankel

Shankel brought greetings from Hiratsuka, specifically Mr. Tomita, and regrets that we could not visit. Johnson has been in communication with the youth department in Hiratsuka. If anyone has

ideas of ways to keep communication going, please let her know. The honorary consul in Kansas City wants more information to disseminate to his contacts about the history of the relationship. He wants to meet with us in Lawrence. No student exchanges or adult trips are planned for 2021.

Friends of Iniades—Meyers

The first group of Greek students in Lawrence are tentatively planned to visit at the end of April and early May 2021. A firm decision is likely to be made by February.

Friends of Eutin—Albrecht

No student exchanges are planned for 2021. To keep the relationship alive, we started a series of articles that are appearing in the Eutin newspaper on how COVID affected their lives. Keel wrote the lead article about the impact on SCL, Bob Moody wrote about the political scene, Schumm wrote on the impact on Mass Street, and Gage wrote about the impact on the holidays. They will be added to the web page. There were some Zoom meetings with Friends of Lawrence to discuss going forward and with the consul general in Hamburg.

Closing Comments

Keel thanked everyone for participating and invited comments from any members. Kreicker reminded everyone of a visit by the Eutin guitar orchestra that now has a recording of a commissioned work. Will try to get it on KPR. Keel suggested that it be embedded on the website. Shankel complimented Farrar and the committee on the fabulous website, and she has informed her contacts in Japan about the new website. Baron seconded Shankel's commendation. Keel thanked Shipley as the mayor's delegate to the governing board. The commission will decide next week who will be the 2021 representative. Boatright is encouraged by the enthusiasm despite the pandemic. Hilliard asked about the trivia contest and suggested that it not be a fundraiser in 2021. Miller noted that with so many financial hardships that we need to continue to fundraise so that we have the resources on hand when we do resume travel.

Pierron moved adjournment; Farrar seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:21. Keel wished everyone happiness, wealth, and health.

Submitted by Diana Carlin, Secretary