

## **Sister Cities Lawrence**

### **Annual Membership Meeting**

#### **December 11, 2019 Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: 17 Members including Board members Bill Keel, Kelly Scholz, Diana Carlin, Michelle Fales, Ken Albrecht, Melissa Johnson and Carol Shankel

GUESTS PRESENT: None

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Chair Bill Keel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Max Kade Center on the University of Kansas campus.

#### **Meeting Materials Provided:**

- Agenda
- By-laws, agenda
- Membership forms

#### **Announcements and Guests:**

Keel welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the membership. There were no guests. Keel recapped the purpose of the first meeting to establish Sister Cities Lawrence and the purpose of the 2019 meeting to elect two members- at-large and an Iniades representative to the Governing Board for 3-year terms. Michelle Fales is stepping down as treasurer and the board appointed Sheri Hamilton to replace her for the last year of Fales' term. Fales was thanked. That position will be open for election in December 2020.

#### **Minutes**

Minutes from May 2018 were summarized by Keel. We established Sister Cities Lawrence and elected the governing board: Chair Keel, Vice Chair Scholz, Treasurer Fales, Secretary Carlin and representatives from three friends groups: Bob Schumm, Ken Albrecht and Melissa Johnson. Two at-large members were elected: Carol Shankel and James Hilliard. Mayor Stuart Boley was designated as the official honorary vice chair and was succeeded by Mayor Lisa Larson. Mayor Jennifer Ananda is the current honorary vice chair. All three attended meetings since the formation of Sister Cities Lawrence. Shankel moved and Baron seconded approval. Approved unanimously.

#### **Reports**

Keel summarized the year's activities. There were student visits to all three sister cities and visits from two cities; we celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eutin relationship and Keel acknowledged Frank Baron as the "father" of the relationship. We sent a delegation to Eutin in June and we hosted the Eutin group in October.

We hosted our third annual international trivia fundraiser and Keel thanked Carlin for organizing the event.

Melissa Johnson reported on Friends of Hiratsuka. Nineteen students went to Hiratsuka. Ten delegates will go in 2020. There have been changes to the Saturday school which starts right after selection and then restarts in January. They currently have one chaperone and are interviewing for the second chaperone. Students work on projects, learn some language and culture. They will do reports at Saturday school, such as a report on the Japanese vending machines. They are preparing for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Shankel, Hilliard, and Johnson are a part of the planning committee and there are opportunities for Friends to participate. Johnson became involved because of her being stationed in Okinawa during military service. October 18-25 next year we will send the delegation to Japan. But dates have not been finalized. The delegation trip from Hiratsuka has not been scheduled but it will be in fall 2021.

Scholz noted that the board is aware of some of the damage done to the Japanese Friendship Garden and when we are aware, we pass the information along to the city liaison. Everyone is encouraged to let a board member know if there are problems with the garden. A question was raised about the possibility of closing the garden in the evening. Faye Watson pointed out the problems with having it open at night. Scholz suggested that Friends of Hiratsuka look into it.

Amy Meyer reported on the first delegation to Iniades. Eight students went in July. Meyer led the group. Greek families were great hosts. Students connected prior to departure. A group from Iniades is coming to Lawrence in April. They already have some host connections. We will send another delegation in 2021. Bob Moody asked if the students will go to school with the Lawrence students. They want to visit KU and several schools. Some students are older than high school. Bob Schumm is working on the program. It will be more similar to the Hiratsuka exchange since it is shorter. The sister city relationship is now 10 years old. Johnson wants to be notified of plans for school visits so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

We are in communication with the mayor of Messolonghi, and our mayor has been involved in the planning. The last official visit from Lawrence was in 2012. Albrecht mentioned that due to consolidation of local governments, Iniades is now a part of a larger area and we are now in conversations with Messolonghi to be the sister city since that is the heart of the governing region. Meyer indicated that Messolonghi is a more advantageous political entity with which to work.

Ken Albrecht reported on the Eutin relationship. Twenty-one delegates, including four board members, the major and vice mayor went to Eutin and Arne Scholz led the student delegation for the fifth time. Tom Lipp, the German teacher at Free State, will lead the delegation in 2020.

The Eutin delegation to Lawrence was composed of 12 individuals including the mayor. They want to make the exchanges every three years instead of five. We will take that under advisement.

Keel indicated that we are aware that we need to do a better job of communicating with the membership and we have plans to work on better systems. Everyone is welcome to come to our governing board meetings which are held the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 at City Hall.

## **By-laws Revision**

Prior to electing board members for terms beginning in January 2020, an amendment to the bylaws was presented allowing a Friends Group to elect their representative on the governing board prior to the general meeting—added language boldfaced:

“V.5.4. Each Friends Group shall also elect their respective representative to serve on the Governing Board at the annual meeting **or at a prior meeting of that Friends Group**. A simple majority is required for election.”

The motion passed.

## **Election**

Amy Meyer and Jan Miller are proposed for membership on the governing board. Shankel and Hilliard did not seek reelection. Each nominee provided background information and reasons for wanting to serve on the board.

Moody thanked James Hilliard and Carol Shankel for their work on behalf of Sister Cities for their decades of work. Both have experience in Hiratsuka. He suggested that we want the board membership to retain a balance of the three groups. Scholz indicated that Carol will continue to work on Friends of Hiratsuka. She encouraged everyone to participate in the Friends group. Scholz reminded that each Friends group has a representative on the board.

Graham Kreicker moved that the nominees be accepted and be elected by acclamation. Moody seconded. Passed unanimously. The first meeting for the new members is January 8, 2020 at the City Hall Commission Meeting Room.

Keel asked Friends of Iniades if they had elected their representative. Bob Schumm will continue as the representative.

## **New Business**

Moody proposed adding a new section to the bylaws regarding all meetings of Friends Groups:

III.6.4 All Friends meetings shall be announced to the general membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

Phyllis Farrar seconded. Discussion followed. It was determined that the secretary of the board should send out the announcement. The Friends' representatives on the board are responsible for sending the information to the secretary. The announcement can be by e-mail, website or both. Passed unanimously.

Watson noted that the first communication with the board was the announcement of the annual meeting. Many Friends members had trouble paying dues online. Dues reminders will be sent by mail again. She noted that we need better communication and need more information in the newspaper.

Shankel mentioned that there is a Facebook page for Sister Cities and for the Friends groups. There is also a Website. Moody Googled sister cities for year-end giving and can't find the right site. Scholz noted that there are adjustments that need to be made with the website since the separation from the city. That is on the board's agenda.

Baron wanted to correct that there were four marriages from the Eutin-Lawrence relationship and five children. Baron noted that many of the photos of Eutin have disappeared from the Max Kade Center and if there is a place to display them, they should be shown. There are albums from each of the years Baron visited that are in the Max Kade Center. We need to explore possible locations for art work and photos. Albrecht indicated that Friends of Eutin discussed this and that displaying them in Library is a possibility. We could explore other sister city buildings. Miller agreed that the gifts and photos from delegations need to be displayed somewhere so that the public is more aware. Farrar suggested that we discuss this with the city's arts advisory committee. They should be distributed throughout the city. Miller suggested a rotation in several buildings. Scholz suggested that we add this as a committee for 2020.

The high school exchange is now 30 years old and that relationship needs to be archived. There are several links that need to be restored on the website.

### **Adjournment**

Kreicker moved and Fales seconded that the meeting adjourn. Adjourned at 8:13 pm.