

Sister Cities Lawrence

Governing Board Meeting

July 12, 2023, Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Albrecht, Bill Keel, Jan Miller, Bob Schumm, Kathleen Hodge, Kelly Scholz, James Hilliard and Sheri Hamilton (virtually)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Larsen, Diana Carlin

CITY LIAISON: Stephen Mason (virtually)

COMMITTEE CHAIR PRESENT: Phyllis Farrar (virtually)

Chair Bill Keel opened the meeting at 5:35 pm in the conference room of the Watkins Museum.

Meeting Materials Provided:

- Meeting agenda
- Website committee report
- June financial report
- June draft minutes
- Membership report
- News Release on student exchanges

Announcements and Guests

- No guests or announcements

Approval of June Minutes

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

Review of June Financials

- Hamilton discussed advantages of issuing credit cards to trip chaperones. For the future anticipate all chaperones will be issued credit cards rather than debit cards. The credit limit needs to be increased to include payment of airfare as well.
- Hamilton will be reconciling the 2023 expenses for both the Eutin and Hiratsuka trips.
- 50% of the \$8,000 city allocation for 2023 has been received.
- Discussion of payment of fee for background checks. Hamilton would prefer an annual rather than monthly payment. Currently Scholz is receiving the monthly bill and forwarding it to Hamilton.
- Scholz noted that payments to additional host families for students from Hiratsuka and Eutin will need to be budgeted since a smaller number of students from Lawrence participated in the 2023 exchanges. There may be a need to increase the amount over the \$150 paid in 2022 for those additional host families.

- Hamilton announced she would not be available for a new term as treasurer after December 2023 due to increased responsibilities with her job at KU Endowment.
- The Board expressed its heartfelt thanks for all Hamilton has done given the many challenges during the pandemic.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website—Farrar

- Farrar has posted the need for additional host families for the delegations coming from Hiratsuka later in July and Eutin in September.

Membership—Farrar

- Farrar reported one new family membership.
- Albrecht asked whether Zeffy—a program for online donations for non-profits could be used to avoid the fees now being charged by Stripe. Albrecht will look into to this.

Public Relations--Miller

- Miller reported on her effort to have a piece about the student exchanges appear in the *Lawrence Journal-World*. She anticipates that the reporter will interview selected students who went to Hiratsuka and Eutin this summer.

Financial Aid Committee—Keel

- A couple of students who went to Eutin and Hiratsuka should be selected to visit meetings of Central Rotary and Breakfast Optimists to thank them for their generous support.

Chaperone Committee—Hodge

- Hodge is going to ask if we can do an annual rather than monthly payment for the background checks. Scholz is currently the contact for the monthly billing.
- Potential new chaperones should be referred to the respective Friends group. Friends groups will select a potential chaperone and then refer them to the committee for vetting.

FOI (Friends of Iniades)—Schumm

- There is no news since the mayoral election has not taken place.

FOH (Friends of Hiratsuka)—Hilliard

- Except for one student vacationing with family in South Korea, all students and chaperones returned from Hiratsuka on July 10 (one day late).
- There will be a welcome party for the group coming from Hiratsuka on July 21. Contact Hilliard for more information.

FOE (Friends of Eutin)—Albrecht

- Stephen Arbeau and the 6 students have returned after a successful trip to Eutin. Arbeau wants to meet with Friends of Eutin to discuss the trip, plan for the arrival of the students from Eutin on September 27—staying until October 12—and consider changes in the program for summer 2024. Friends of Eutin will plan a meeting to discuss these matters prior to the August board meeting.

New Business—Proposal for a New Sister City in Chile

- Schumm led a discussion of the proposal presented by Sara Lechtenberg-Kasten at the June meeting regarding a possible sister-city relationship with Tocopilla, Chile. Although the board has not heard from Lechtenberg-Kasten since the June meeting, the idea of a sister city in a Spanish-speaking country has been a goal of the board for many years. Mention was made of several individuals in the Lawrence community and KU who might have some interest in working to realize this possibility. We await further input from Lechtenberg-Kasten.

Schumm moved and Scholz seconded adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The next meeting is August 9, 2023, at 5:30 pm at the Watkins Museum Community Room.

Submitted by Bill Keel, acting Secretary