

Sister City Meeting Minutes April 10, 2024

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Call to Order 5:15PM, Roll Call:

Present: Lars Pedersen, Keiko Pedersen, Russ Brewer, PJ Peterson, Kandi Lewis (phone), Steve Moon (phone), Eileen Bergeson, Angie Wean, Erin Harnish (phone) **Absent:** Frances Hearn (excused)

Meeting minutes from March meeting approved by unanimous vote. Russ Brewer has now taken over Chair duties having been transitioned in by Eileen, and we greatly appreciate both her and his efforts.

Wako Kokusai High School student visit: Recap of host and guest visit experiences and how positive the outcome was. Next year working with Mark Morris admin to better find host families (additional notes that having host decisions made for purposes of our guests' international paperwork). Russ would like to approach the principal of Mark Morris about staff and support. We must make official contact with Mary of the ASL issue to smooth that over and explain. Angie had some good questions about clarifying scheduling, driving, and other event coordination with regard to where standards and responsibility lies. The school district superintendent is changing, so that may open a door to advocating for a "assistant coach" support staff. Russ and Keiko will seek a meeting about this.

Budget Proposal Draft: Angie explained budget line item info, city budget, etc. and how the line item is for incidentals. Bringing info to the council about what we've done will help our chances of funds being dispersed, and a presentation to the council like we've done before is a helpful idea. Involving experiences and gifts after our fall visit to Wako may entice the council to be more involved.

Discussion of the International Festival put on by the Ethnic Support Council as well as its costs (and benefit) and further participation. Similar discussion about Squirrel Fest participation.

Angie moved that we do not attend Squirrel Fest, Eileen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, at 5:15 PM