



SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

12:00pm – City Hall

- I. Welcome
 - a. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: Victoria White, Betty Ruleman, Austin Fesmire, Ersu Henry, Randy Dowling and Becky Simpson
 - ii. Absent: Lindsey Ferguson and Larry Eaton
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion was made by Ersu Henry, seconded by Victoria White, for the approval of the May 14, 2025 minutes.
Motion carried
- III. New Business
 - a. Pumpkintown – Discussion of Pumpkintown on October 11th and volunteers needed to work the booth if the Board wants a table. Victoria informed the Board that Denso employee's spouses volunteer for activities to work the booth. Need to decide on the activity; maybe do fans again since it was very popular last time. Communications was working on a pamphlet to hand out at the event.
 - b. Chenzei Gakuin Dinner – Total headcount is 75 and payment needs to be made 2 to 3 weeks before the event.
 - c. Hotel for Chenzei Gakuin – Ana, Ersu and Betty, the CG-TWU directors, submitted a request for funding a one night hotel stay in Nashville, the night before the students flight home. With 4 students per room and 1 chaperone room, the total is expected to be \$1,280.
Motion was made by Victoria White, seconded by Becky Simpson, to approve the request for \$1,280 for a one night hotel stay in Nashville for the Chenzei Gakuin students and one chaperone.
Motion carried
 - d. SEUS Attendance – The Governor will be in attendance this year in Tokyo with JAST, which is great for Economic Development. If attendance is desired, a JAST membership is required

Motion was made by Betty Ruleman, seconded by Ersu Henry, to approve a \$250 membership to JAST.

Motion carried

Sister Cities members to possibly attend SEUS: City Mayor, Larry Eaton; City Manager, Randy Dowling; Business Representative and Translators, Ersu Henry and Victoria White; at approximately \$6,000 per person. Invitation should be extended to County Mayor John Gentry and Economic Development Director Lindsey Ferguson, but not funded through Sister Cities.

Motion was made by Ersu Henry, seconded by Randy Dowling, for the Sister Cities to fund four members of the Board to attend the SEUS conference in Tokyo, to include: hotel, air fare, per diem and incidentals, at approximately \$6,000 per person. Invitation will be extended to County Mayor and EDA to be funded by themselves.

Motion carried

- e. Previous Japan visit attendees reinvolvement – Cherry Blossom Festival – Liz Sallay (from Athens) Reach out to alumni for future funding/donations
- f. Report from Larry Eaton on Consul General dinner – Victoria reported that Larry did great meeting the Consul General and was so excited.

IV. The meeting adjourned

Approved:

Betty Ruleman, Secretary

Date