



SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, October 14, 2024

12:00pm – Trinity UMC

- I. Welcome
 - a. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: Victoria White, Becky Simpson, Austin Fesmire, Ersu Henry, Steve Sherlin, Randy Dowling and Betty Ruleman
 1. Visitors: Anna Barrios(TWU) and Frank Clark (City of Athens)
 - ii. Absent: Lindsey Ferguson
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion was made by Ersu Henry, seconded by Betty Ruleman, for the approval of minutes of the August 7, 2024 meeting.

Motion carried
- III. New Business
 - a. Japan Scholarship – Ersu Henry presented the TWU trip to Japan for students (18+) scheduled for May 16-25, 2025. If there are 5 or less students, only 1 chaperone will be needed, but if they receive the maximum number of 10, they will need 2 chaperones. They would like to offer 3 students from Athens \$1,000 scholarships for the trip; TWU committee is in place to determine which students will qualify for the scholarship. They would also like support for one of the chaperones.

Motion was made by Betty Ruleman, seconded by Becky Simpson, to support three (3) \$1,000 scholarships for students and one (1) \$3,500 chaperone, for a total donation of \$6,500.

Motion carried
 - b. Financial Commitment to Chinzei Gakuin 2025 TWU Program – Ana, Ersu and Betty all spoke about the 2025 scheduled visit of 24 students and their upcoming needs. They are requesting funding for 2 Sister Cities Resident Ambassadors (SCRA) and directorial staff in addition to the already approved \$1200 yearly donation. The Board would like preference to go to Athens resident applicants if possible.

Motion was made by Ersu Henry, seconded by Becky Simpson, to approve \$2,140 for two(2) SCRA's and \$2,100 for directorial staff, in addition to the already approved \$1,200 annual donation to the program.

Motion Carried

- c. Discussion of "Host" Schedule for Lecture Series– Members discussed who was available for which classes and signed up when they were available.

IV. The meeting adjourned

Approved:

Betty Ruleman, Secretary

Date