



# SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

## MINUTES

### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, November 13, 2023

12:00pm – EDA Boardroom

- I. Welcome
  - a. Roll Call:
    - i. Present: Victoria White, Austin Fesmire, Becky Simpson, Dick Pelley, Deb Wallace, Lindsey Ferguson, Ersu Henry, and Betty Ruleman
  
- II. New Business
  - a. Trip Postponed – All committee members agreed that, since there is no City of Athens liability waiver in place (though Deb Wallace indicated that it is in progress) and since there are worrying worldwide concerns for safety of travelers, the trip to Japan be postponed to 2025 or thereafter. Motion was made by Lindsey Ferguson, seconded by Ersu Henry, to delay the trip to Japan this May.  
Motion Carried
  - b. Notice to Applicants – The members discussed how to inform the 8 applicants of the committee’s decision to postpone travel to Japan in 2024. Austin Fesmire will see that the website indicates the committee’s decision, and Ersu Henry will draft a brief letter to the students indicating environmental concerns for travel this year as well as the potential to serve as a Sister City Resident Ambassador with the Chinzei Gakuin-TWU Language and Culture Program in the summer of ’24.
  - c. Summer Program for Applicants - Consideration of how the applicants might be involved in the summer program at TWU in 2024 followed. Betty Ruleman indicated that the program cannot incorporate 8 SCRA’s; however, these students will be encouraged to apply for consideration as SCRA’s. The summer program staff will reach out to these students when SCRA applications are being requested. Austin Fesmire suggested that an event might take place in which these students have an opportunity to spend time with the Japanese teenagers.
  - d. Committee Letterhead - The necessity of a letterhead for this committee was mentioned.
  
- III. The meeting adjourned

Approved:

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Betty Ruleman, Secretary

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Date