



## SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

### MINUTES

#### MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

12:00pm – City Hall

- I. Welcome
  - a. Roll Call:
    - i. Present: Betty Ruleman, Larry Eaton, Sandra Kinney, Randy Dowling, Becky Simpson and Joe Barnett
    - ii. Absent: Lindsey Ferguson, Ersu Henry and Austin Fesmire
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Motion was made by Joe Barnett, seconded by Randy Dowling, for the approval of the August 13, 2025 minutes.  
Motion carried
- III. New Business
  - a. Industry Representative Vacancy –Victoria White emailed the Boad to inform them that there was not another Denso employee interested in her vacant position. Sandra Kinney will try to find an interest and an email will be sent to Lindsey Ferguson for suggestions also. Revisit at next meeting.
  - b. Japan Visit in October – Ersu Henry has resigned from TWU, effective September 19<sup>th</sup>, therefore, she will no longer be the TWU representative on the Board. Since she will not be on the Board at the time of the trip, Larry Eaton informed her that she would not be able to go to Japan with them. Larry then gave a brief overview of the itinerary.
  - c. Proposed Term Amendments – With the additions to the Board of Directors, the Athens City Director of Schools and the Main Street Director, the Terms section needed to be updated.

**Terms:**

The terms of the Directors shall be staggered to provide continuity and experience for the organization. The initial Directors appointed pursuant to numbers 1 – 3 in Paragraph ~~2~~ above shall serve an initial term of three (3) years, with the positions thereafter appointed for a three (3) year term. The initial Directors appointed pursuant to numbers ~~4 and 7~~ 4, 7, 8 and 9 shall serve an initial term of two (2) years, and thereafter the Directors appointed for these positions shall serve three (3) year terms. The City Council member serving as Director pursuant to number 5 in Paragraph ~~2~~ above shall serve until replaced

by the Mayor. The then serving City Manager shall serve while employed as City Manager. No person named as a Director shall serve more than four (4) terms, with the exception of the Council member and the City Manager.

Motion was made by Sandra Kinney, seconded by Randy Dowling, to approve the changes.

Motion carried

- d. Pumpkintown – Larry Eaton and Becky Simpson spoke with Meredith Willson and she informed them that Pumpkintown is full and she does not have a space to put another booth and we should just wait until Moofest.
- e. The Board discussed the leaving of Victoria White and Ersa Henry and their huge contribution to the Board and suggested a parting gift for them.

Motion was made by Larry Eaton, seconded by Randy Dowling, to purchase a \$100 gift card for Ersa Henry and a \$300 gift card for Victoria White, as a thank you for their service and support of the Sister Cities Board of Directors.

Motion carried

IV. The meeting adjourned

Approved:

Betty Ruleman, Secretary  
Betty Ruleman, Secretary

Date Nov 12, 2025