

City of Lawrence

Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board

08 February, 2017 Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Schumm, Kathleen Hodge, Jon Niccum, Dennis Christilles, Jennifer Carttar, Hans Carttar, Mike Dever, Michelle Fales

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Albrecht, Amy Pope, Bill Keel, Kelly Scholz, Billy Williams, Jon Josserand

STAFF LIAISON PRESENT: Porter Arneill

PUBIC PRESENT: None

Chair Bob Schumm opened the Meeting at City Hall at 5:30 pm on 08 February, 2017

Meeting Materials Provided:

- Meeting Agenda, 11 January, 2017 Draft Meeting Minutes, Monthly Financial Report, Current LSCAB members and terms

Draft Meeting Minutes

- 11 January 2017 Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Board Appointments - Schumm

- Bob explained Mayor Soden's overall perspective on board appointments—that the City Commission wants to assure boards are adding new members whenever possible—and her position to allow the board to retain 2 members and appoint 2 new members. Bob called Mayor Soden and spoke with her about this and reminded her that all 4 are key positions. He explained that he doesn't disagree philosophically but for Sister Cities, established foreign relationships are also very important.
- Michelle offered her perspective and talked about some negative interactions she's had with long term board members. While she has updated and improved finances, she has received some strong push back to keep things the same. Michelle has gotten feedback from some board members that it's "their way or the highway." She pointed out that there are other opportunities for people to serve beyond the board.
- John shared that during his time on the board, there have been six new appointments. He wondered if there was a mischaracterization of this board's activity that Mayor Soden had received.
- Mike said there's a need to explain to Leslie that there's more turn-over than she may be aware. He expressed his apologies to Michelle, and explained that he hadn't witnessed any

negative interactions. In his experience, there are not lots of people who are willing to serve for free.

- Bob also apologized to Michelle and said he was unaware of these negative interactions. When he was mayor, generally, it was hard to find people to serve on volunteer boards. Getting people *and* knowing they'll participate. He pointed out that both he and Kathleen (and other volunteers) spent a tremendous amount of time hosting the Japanese delegation last year.
- Michelle mentioned that Mike Amyx had expressed frustration that during his time as mayor, some people took officer roles to stay on the board.
- Bob reminded the board of the current situation and asked how the board wanted to proceed. He offered the idea of establishing a committee to review applications, discuss the situation and report back at the next meeting. There was general consensus that this was a good idea. He reviewed the "expired" members and asked if anyone wants to step down.
- Dennis mentioned his recent experience and that he has conflicting evening meetings. He said he's not tied to the board and is willing to step aside. He offered that Ned Huneke is interested and his parents are professors here and that they have experience with fundraising and communications. Ned is supportive of the program, has traveled to Iniaades and is interested in local government. He's 26 years old and has roots here..
- Ken and Kathleen want to stay on.
- Bob wants a comprehensive report for review. He pointed out that candidates should be vetted for their commitment and availability.
- General comments: Beth Reder has been on the board. Michelle approached Melissa Johnson and she's very interested. Erin Bennet has expressed interest and worked on Hiratsuka.
- Michelle, Mike and Dennis volunteered to serve on the committee.
- Jennifer asked if 3 was a good size and if this should be done at a board level?
- Bob pointed out that there is some urgency since four positions are expired. He expressed the desire to streamline the process. The committee can call people and determine their ability to serve.
- Jennifer asked if non board members can serve on committees. The answer was yes and they can come to the board meetings too although that rarely happens.
- ACTION: John moved and Jennifer seconded; Set up the committee as described to review the current board members and interested candidates and make recommendations for who should stay on and new members. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report - Fales

- Michelle sent the financials out via email and they are included in the packet.
- She has signature cards for Bob for a money market acct.
- Received some member money from some Hiratsuka parents.
- Collecting dues via credit card has been beneficial and easy. The credit card company forced Michelle to create a new web site which seems to be working well.
- The DCC Foundation money is in checking now but will move to money market very soon.

- She reached out to foundation for end of year report and just received it (error on their side). Michelle will work on end of year report.
- Liability insurance went up by \$10 and she asked permission to pay. Board agreed.
- Action: Mike moved and John seconded; January financials received and approved.

2018 City Budget

- Bob offered that no change is necessary this year.
- Michelle said that JJ has a software subscription that doesn't seem to be getting used. It appears that it's \$1000 a year which helps gain \$4000 in donations. Constant Contact is \$20 a month. Michelle was able to take JJs excel and downloaded it into Constant Contact.
- Bob said the board should wait until JJ is present to learn more.
- Mike is familiar with the software service and said it's better to just stay in the PC based system. The other is too much for current need.
- ACTION: Michelle move and Kathleen seconded; Make the annual request for \$8000, same as 2017. Unanimous approval.

Friends of Hiratsuka

- Kathleen explained that at Hiratsuka City Hall they have a big display of our gifts and exchange items in honor of the anniversary.

Friends of Eutin

- Michelle said she's assisting with a request from Jim Morrison for a new intern coming this spring. A young woman. Michelle is working with Jim to coordinate her visit based on her interests. She'll continue working with Jim on this.
- Bob mentioned the sad and somber situation in Eutin with Helmut for those on the board that hadn't heard. (Helmut's daughter is married to a doctor who was leaving his practice/partnership with another doctor. The partner committed a murder/suicide with Helmut's son-in-law [unheard of in Germany] Helmut's daughter has taken over the business/practice.) Bob noted that Helmut was a teen during Hitler's time and much of Helmut's work is in response to that experience.
- Hans spoke about the chaperones for Eutin. There was a past issue and he met with the then superintendent Dr. Dole who established some parameters. There's still some question about the distinction between where this is a district program or a school program. Hans will meet with the new superintendent, Kyle Hayden to review expectations and craft a short-list of chaperones for the July 12 meeting.

Friends of Iniades

- Met to discuss high school trip in 2018.
- Bob communicated with the Iniades Mayor, discussing the possibility of a 7 to 10 day trip with HS students then have a return trip to US. The idea was received positively and there seems to be enthusiasm. It might be challenging economically. Perhaps funds could be

raised or grants found for Iniades students. The date range would be June 2018 to go there, then the Iniades students come here in August.

- The new Mayor, Dmitra P _____ met with the previous mayor who shared the history of the program.
- Bob read the letter he wrote to Mayor Carl of Missolonghi and sent snail mail on January 25.
- Jennifer has identified some teachers who are enthusiastic and will inspire students.
- Dennis has students who are interested and the program is open to friends from other universities. The deadline is March 1st.

New Business

- Michelle is working on the newsletter and asked for substance.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.