

## STILLWATER SISTER CITIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JULY 28, 2016

At 5:00 p.m the Sister Cities Council met in the Kameoka Room of the Stillwater Community Center. Members present were Bob Burk, Sylvia Duncan, Dale Durham, Becky Irby, Larry Jones, John Mills, and Judy Nelson. Absent were Carolyn Confer, Linda Ely, and Cindy Petree. At present there is no youth representative.

Chairman Larry Jones called the meeting to order. There were no guests present. The minutes of the April 28, 2016, special meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by John Mills, seconded by Dale Durham.

In the absence of Cindy Petree, there was no report concerning the Sister City Program and no one was present to make a report about the Japanese Student Association.

Sylvia Duncan reported that the Office of International Students and Scholars (ISS) and the Center for International Trade Development (CITD), were cooperating with the Family Resource Center located in the married student housing area at OSU to hold an "international bash" on August 26 at the Family Resource Center. Food trucks operating in Stillwater have been invited to be present; there will be music, games, and other activities for internationals. Members of the Council are welcome to attend the event which will start about 6:30 pm. In regard to agenda item 5b, she reported that ISS does not know the number of Japanese students who will be arriving to attend OSU and the English Language Institute (ELI) for the fall semester. He will notify the Council when he has the needed information for the Council to host a pizza party welcome. This information will be sent to Council members by e-mail.

Sylvia Duncan also reported that the Japanese artifacts loaned to the Sheerar Museum for the Japanese exhibit which opened last fall have been returned to the Kameoka Room, Larry Jones, and Sylvia Duncan. Becky Irby has not yet received her items. The items belonging to the City of Stillwater (i.e. the Sister Cities Council) will need to be returned to their proper display locations. A day for this activity was not determined. Sylvia, in collaboration with Stephanie Kinder, will determine a possible date and solicit help. It was also mentioned that the poster-board signage used in the museum display might be secured from the Sheerar Museum and arranged sequentially to comprise a large book which would be accessible in the Kameoka Room.

The special recognition ceremony by the Stillwater City Council at its July 18 meeting, was noted. A proclamation was read and presented to the Council marking July 15, 2016, as Sister Cities International Day. Council members present who accepted the recognition were Chairman Larry Jones, Bob Burk, Dale Durham, and Judy Nelson.

Possible topics for articles to appear in the fall issue of the Tomadachi newsletter were discussed. Items mentioned were: (1) the recent visit of the Japanese Consul General, his assistant, and Honorary Consul General for Oklahoma, Lloyd Hardin, to Stillwater; (2) the International Day proclamation; (3) the annual Sister Cities International conference in Washington, DC; (4) the new youth representative we will hopefully have by the publication date; (5) reports on the planned fall activities: the international bash, the pizza party welcome for Japanese students, and homecoming parade participation.

There was discussion about the open youth representative position. Bob Burk offered to contact Grace Koemel to discern her interest. He will report back to Larry Jones who has been attempting to make some contacts.

Items of interest to the Council included the following:

Larry Jones reported that he had received word from a former Japanese OSU student, Takeshi Kusuhara, that his son wants to come to Stillwater in about two years. Takeshi was asking for assistance as to how some arrangements might be made to accomplish this. Larry Jones also mentioned that a married couple from Kameoka have plans to visit Stillwater in the spring of 2017.

Several Council members congratulated Larry Jones on his excellent Kameoka Korner articles, especially noting the recent one in regard to written Japanese language characters.

John Mills mentioned the rumors that the Wondertorium might relocate to the Community Center and wondered about the impact that would have on the Kameoka Room. It was determined that this is not an immediate issue.

Mention was made of Council Member Cindy Petree's recent surgery being the reason for her absence.

AT 6:15 p.m. Bob Burk made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Judy Nelson and unanimously approved.