

STILLWATER SISTER CITIES COUNCIL MINUTES
Stillwater Community Center
January 26, 2017

The Stillwater Sister Cities Council met on January 26, 2017 at 5:00 pm for a regular council meeting at the Stillwater Community Center in the Kameoka Room.

1. Call to Order – Larry Jones called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members Present: Larry Jones, Cindy Petree, Linda Ely, Sylvia Duncan, Becky Irby, John Mills, Carolyn Confer, Judy Nelson, Dale Durham, Alex Wall

Members Absent: Bob Burk
2. Introduction of Guest: Audrey Bilyeu, JSA Vice President
3. Introduction of Student Member of Sister Cities Council – Alex Wall was welcomed as the newest member of the council. Alex is the son of Mr. Corey Wall and Mrs. Quynh-Thu Wall who moved to Stillwater three years ago. He is in 8th grade at Stillwater Jr. High School.
4. Approval of Minutes: Regular meeting following the potluck dinner on December 1, 2016, at 7:00 pm – John Mills made a motion to approve the minutes as revised. Judy Nelson seconded the motion. All votes yes.
5. Council Reports/Possible Action
 - a) Sister School Program (Petree) – No Report.
 - b) Office of International Students and Scholars (Duncan) – Sylvia Duncan distributed copies of Tim Huff's email Update for Sister Cities. OSU international enrollment statistics are not final for spring 2017 but India is the largest with more than 470, China 400+, Saudi Arabia 250+, and S. Korea 100. Japanese students continue to decline with four students enrolled. One female Japanese student has submitted a request to be included in the Host Family Program, not living arrangements but occasional visits to the home or participation in local events or activities with a family. Contact Tim at tim.huff@okstate.edu if interested. The International Bazaar will be held on February 11, 2017 in the Wes Watkins Center from 11-2:00.
 - c) Japanese Student Organization (JSA) - Audrey Bilyeu is Vice-President of JSA. She announced that she will be representing JSA this semester only as she will be studying abroad in Japan in the fall. There are currently 20 members in JSA and the officers are either graduating or will be studying abroad. Most are American OSU students with an interest in Japan and/or studying the Japanese language. JSA will not be participating in Cultural Night due to the shortage of Japanese students on campus.
 - d) Kameoka Room – (Duncan) - Sylvia Duncan indicated she will be working on a way to display the vintage Japanese doll donated to the council by a family interred during WWII. Also to be considered for display is a large Japanese screen donated by Dr. Johnson that was among his highly valuable treasures in the case in the Kameoka Room.

5. Items for Discussion/Possible Action

a) Election of Officers—Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary – Cindy Petree said Larry Jones is the voice of this council and expressed her appreciation of his service. Larry said he is honored to serve and is willing to continue his service at the pleasure of the council. Cindy, as Vice Chair, conducted the election of chair of the council. Becky Irby moved and Judy Nelson seconded the motion to re-elect Larry Jones as chair. All votes yes. John Mills moved and Judy Nelson seconded for re-election of Cindy Petree as Vice Chair. All vote yes. Cindy Petree moved and Sylvia Duncan seconded the re-election of Linda Ely as Secretary. All votes yes. Dale Durham complimented Larry on his Kameoka Corner articles telling him how much the articles have helped his understanding of the history and culture of Japan and the sister cities relationship. Cindy Petree asked about the possibility of publishing the many years of his articles that have appeared in the NewsPress.

b) Kameoka Tomodachi Newsletter – Stephanie Kinder reported that the council budget has been reduced and the newsletter will be affected. She recommended a one page review of the previous year of activities that could be developed from the Kameoka Corner articles by Larry Jones. Sylvia Duncan moved to accept the recommendation for a review of the 2016 year for the newsletter, second by Cindy Petree. All votes yes.

c) Wondertorium / Kameoka Art Exchange – Carolyn Confer advised that she has had difficulty getting information from Multi-Arts regarding art projects for exchanges with Kameoka. OSU will be assuming control from the city, so future cooperation with Multi-Arts is not known. Carolyn visited the Wondertorium and was impressed with their display of a wonderful sunflower mural and artwork from Kameoka students. The Community Center also has a mural and part of the artwork on display, and Cindy Petree took more of the art for the Middle School or Stillwater National Bank. Carolyn indicated she will not be continuing her work with the Wondertorium since she is no longer a member of the council due to her move to Edmond. She expressed how much she has enjoyed her involvement with the council. She was thanked for her service and how much she will be missed and was invited to attend meetings and sister cities events.

6. Council/Staff announcements of items of interest to the Council – Becky Irby announced that she will host the Sukiyaki Dinner on April 27. Larry Jones advised Japanese guests will be in Stillwater April 3-10, and he is working on a schedule that will include an event for council members. Larry Jones reported that he will meet with ELI Director Fred Griffith to discuss recruitment of Japanese students to OSU. Audrey Bilyeu passed around a photo of new baby of Omar Ibarra and Sayaka Isoda.

7. Discussion of agenda items for future meetings - April event for Japanese guests of Larry and Kayo Jones. Report from Larry Jones on meeting with ELI Director.

8. Adjourn – John Mills moved and Becky Irby seconded a motion to adjourn.

Minutes submitted by Linda Ely