

Salem Ota Cultural Exchange |MINUTES

January 28, 2019 | 7 pm | 98 Washington Street

Attendees

Chris Granniss

Denise Granniss

Constance Arlander

Hugh Stewart

Joe Salerno

Kathleen Salas

Elizabeth Emery

Ellen Soares

Abigail Clark

Deb Jackson

Agenda topics

Agenda topic Budget Items

Line item Ota costs were reviewed to prepare for the year, including small gifts to assemblymen and students, office and website costs, and returning to the same location where we held the student luncheon. We'd love to include the Taiko drummers again as well.

We continue to brainstorm ideas such as a Japanese film at Salem Cinema or other Japanese cultural event with modest fundraising goals that will promote awareness of Ota in the community.

Agenda topic Adult Trip to Japan in August

Four people are interested in travelling this summer. At this point there is not a deadline to apply but to get the obligatory group rates we need 10-15 people going. Tentatively this will occur from July 1-15 before the Ota students arrive, potentially earlier if no school snow days transpire this winter.

Agenda topic Elections of Board and Officers for 2019

Denise and Chris Granniss are entering their 3rd year as Presidents, so we should be thinking ahead for their replacements in the next few years! All current Board Members and Officers were unanimously renewed.

Agenda topic 2019 College Scholarship Planning

Local high schools will be reminded about this \$500 opportunity to alert seniors who have been involved with Ota CE in any way. Deadline is typically May 1 and will be put on the website in February to be completed on line. The application clearly requests answering 3 key questions that *must* be addressed in the body of the essay for consideration. The award will be presented at the end of May.

Agenda topic 2019 Host Family Recruitment

We hope to reach out to potentially interested families who were unable to host last summer, although we do not yet have official dates through the Department of Education. Looking at prior year patterns it will most likely be sometime between the window of July 20 to August 3. Please let us know if you are able to host this year again! We are hoping Peter or Midori will be able to get more firm information about which dates we can anticipate, to best inform all of our families. At that point we can send flyers out to the schools and use social media to spread the word.

Next meeting:

Monday, February 25 at 7:00

First Floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex

98 Washington Street