

Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange
June 4, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Call to order: 7:00

Attendance: Chris Granniss, Denise Granniss, Jerry Sherman, Erin Dolan, Ellen Soares, Constance Arlander, Elizabeth Emery, Olivia Bracken, Pamela Myrie, Elizabeth “Betty” Burke, Abigail Clark, Ben Arlander

Minutes from April were approved with 1 amendment: Erin Dolan was present at the meeting (via phone conference)

Note: Minutes must be printed in larger font so they are easier to read

Open issues

- 1) Connie presented on 2018 Japanese Student Host Family Search
 - will ask Midori to ask Ota about Mazuzans hosting boys
 - need to contact Brad Martin to confirm
 - All students are placed pending approval/confirmation of above.
 - Jennifer Vargas wants to host a girl and is on waitlist

- 2) Connie presented on 2018 planning for student visit
 - Meeting with host families will happen after June 16. Ask Deb about using our city annex meeting space for that meeting or Winter Island.
 - Schedule
 - There are some schedule changes. Because their flight out is very early we might not be able to schedule our traditional goodbye at the High school. It might make sense for them to come directly to Salem and save their Boston overnight for that last day.
 - Ota is requiring that they tour a special school in Randolph from 9-1 on Friday . They should be back in time for us to have the cookout but traffic could be an issue.
 - We might not be able to do Canobie Lake as a result.
 - Several things are already scheduled including The House of the 7 Gables for the Welcome Party, Thursday is here in Salem with PEM, Witch Museum and mayor lunch at Winter Island. The Goodbye Party is booked at the Salem Five space and PEM with Taiko drummers.Salem Five is only requiring \$250 for janitor not rent.
 - The Goodbye event went out on the PEM calendar. New banner has been purchased and will hang from July 13-July 31
 - The schedule can't go up on the website for the host families until more details have been worked out.

○ Other

Since Midori will not be able to be here the whole time as she is going with our students to Japan, Ota will have to pay for a translator. Another possibility is a former student, Ali Palmer, had offered to help translate if the dates fit with her work schedule. Denise will put her in touch with Midori directly. Jerry also

suggested the adult Japanese exchange student they are currently hosting might be willing to help out as well.

- Chris and Midori will meet the students at the airport on July 21.
- Connie took names of people willing to help out at the scheduled events.

- 3) Ellen presented the 2018 American Student Trip to Japan Planning
 - Midori, Ellen and Ellen's sister will be chaperones. Deb had noted that the train passes were purchased by the city.
 - This led to a discussion on the budget. The budget subcommittee needs to meet as we never created a proposed budget for 2018. Hopefully Steve, the former treasurer, would be able to meet with Ellen, our current treasurer, and Chris to go over that process. Our city budget year ends June 30 and it was unclear how much we still have in that account. Our budget of \$20,000 was renewed by the city for next year. That budget is handled by Deb Jackson, our city liaison, and our separate club funds are handled by Ellen, but we agreed there needs to be clarity on this.
 - Connie has a \$2,000 purchase order for the things we give the visiting students, the teachers and the host families (bags, t-shirts, tumblers) at the Welcome party.
 - Ellen is going to ask Deb for cash to bring to Japan to recompense Ota for the Goodbye party (just as Ota pays for ours here.) It was noted that the receipt she will get is in Japanese and she will let Deb know so that can be figured out.
- 4) Membership Update has been tabled until August/September after the student trips.
- 5) Chris presented an update on Filing for Revival with State.
 - He has all the documents he needs now and anticipates this will be complete by next week.
 - The new mailing address will have to be the President's address going forward as neither city hall nor our PO Box were acceptable.
 - Each year we will have to fill out and send the short update on the board to keep our listing current.

New business

Betty presented the results of our 2018 Scholarship Award.

- It was awarded to Connor Heenan whose family has hosted for many years. The check was presented to him at Salem High's scholarship night. His essay was read aloud and is currently posted on our website.
- We decided to reinstate the word limit from past years which wasn't on this year's application. Essays can be up to 500 words.
- Next year, in addition to the announcement on the webpage, there should be an email blast tailored to kids who would qualify. This is more effective than dropping the application off at schools.
- Betty noted she has all the submitted essays and thank-you's dating back to 2001 for anyone who is interested in seeing them.

Adults are coming in November

- Thursday the 15th to the 18th
- Hosts are needed

Adjournment