



SISTER CITIES PROGRAM

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

12:00pm – Trinity UMC

- I. Welcome
 - a. Roll Call:
 - i. Present: Victoria White, Austin Fesmire, Deb Wallace, Ersu Henry, and Betty Ruleman
 - ii. Absent: Lindsey Ferguson, Becky Simpson and Steve Sherlin
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion was made by Betty Ruleman, seconded by Ersu Henry, for the approval of minutes of the January 29 and February 26, 2024 meetings.
Motion carried
- III. New Business
 - a. Waiver – The City attorney has submitted a draft for the new waiver to Deb Wallace. Board agreed to have the TWU waiver sent to the attorney to review and incorporate into the draft.
 - b. CG Visit (Ana Barrios) – Ana Barrios supplied the Board with program and budget handouts. They are planning on less excursions this year to reduce costs. Looking at fundraising options to help students with airfare expenses. They are still needing SCRA's to sign up and may extend deadline an additional 15 days.
 - c. AAPI at ACIS and Tribe Night at MCHS – Asian American Pacific Islander month with Denso at Athens City Intermediate School will be held on April 29th and this is a great way to get the word out about our Board and start interest early in the exchange program. Tribe Night at McMinn County High School is career night for seniors but all grades will be there and this will be a great opportunity to spread the word about the exchange program.
 - d. Emperor's Birthday – Victoria White attended the celebration in Nashville hosted by the Japanese Consulate and said it was a neat celebration with the Governor as the keynote speaker.
 - e. Extra Discussion – Ways to get the word out about Sister City – Ersu Henry questioned having a booth at Moofest and maybe contacting the JOI coordinator for ideas. Deb Wallace suggested talking to the schools, starting with 8th graders, as to what to aspire to when they get older.
 - i. Motion was made by Ersu Henry, seconded by Victoria White, to submit an application to be a vendor at Moofest and funds of \$25 be used for the application.
Motion Carried

IV. The meeting adjourned

Approved:

Betty Ruleman, Secretary

Date