

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
STILLWATER SISTER CITIES COUNCIL
August 24, 2023**

Present: Cindy Petree, Becky Irby, Jacie Gray, Matthew Payne, Dale Durham, John Mills, Judy Nelson

Absent: Yuki Clark, Bob Burk

1. Call to Order

Cindy Petree called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

2. Introduction of Guests

Steph Link, OSU Content, Language, Instruction Confluence (CLIC)

Sarah Milligan, OSU Library, Head of Oklahoma Oral Histories Research Program

Erin Dyke, College of Education & Human Sciences Assoc Professor of Curriculum Studies

Tim Huff, OSU, Director International Students & Scholars

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 25, 2023 – Motion to approve, Becky Irby; Second, Judy Nelson; All votes yes, motion approved
- b. June 15, 2023 – Motion to approve, Matthew Payne; Second, John Mills; All votes yes, motion approved

4. Report from Steph Link, CLIC on June visit from 12 Japanese teachers

The CLIC leadership is in the process of reviewing the program; evaluations from participants are due tomorrow, August 25. Nine host families housed teachers. The CLIC Program will be moved to ELIC, which is directed by Emily Boersma. Several of the CLIC personnel will travel to Kameoka November 15-28 to work with the teachers in their schools. Kameoka City Hall has asked if a representative from the SCC will be coming. If we choose not to send someone, one of the CLIC staff will represent the Council on our behalf.

Sarah Milligan from OSU is planning to conduct oral interviews in Kameoka to find out about the city's knowledge of the Stillwater – Kameoka Sister City Program and also seek to conduct oral interviews with Kameoka school personnel about the 34-year program. Cindy requested that they work with Kameoka City Hall to identify teachers and students who visited Stillwater. Jacie Gray stated that this is the subject of her research and would like to be involved. She would like to document the "Kameoka side of the Sister City Program," She hopes to receive a Fullbright Scholarship to continue her research next summer (2024) in Kameoka. John Mills asked what the end goal of the project was. Sarah Milligan stated that it was the "build a record of those who lived it [the Sister City Program and exchanges]. Cindy suggested that Sarah Milligan also interview our Stillwater students like Matthew Payne who took part in exchanges and see how it impacted their lives.

Erin Dyke reported that she held workshops with the Japanese teacher on topics such as the history of US education policy and curriculum design. She is looking for ideas on how to build relationships with Japanese and American teachers. A question was asked about OSU-K, and Tim

Huff explained how OSU-K functioned between 1991-1996. The elementary age children of Steph Link, Erin Dyke, and Sarh Milligan will also be traveling to Japan and attending school during the November exchange.

Tim Huff reported that the numbers of international students at OSU are up from 1519 last year to 1530-1540 this year with a few students still arriving on campus. OSU only has two Japanese students enrolled this fall and both are on the tennis team, he believes. The highest enrollments of international students are from India, who are coming to study in STEM-related fields. The Council asked Tim why we have so few Japanese students. He related that this is a national trend. Japanese colleges are creating more incentives for students to study at home. The US is being viewed more as a “study abroad” destination than a place for a college degree.

The fall International Expo will be held on the north Library lawn on October 4th from 11-2 p.m.

5. Discussion and planning regarding the SCC participation in the upcoming student exchange

Cindy Petree reported that Debbie Dawson has arranged with Principal Howell at the High School for use of the Student Activity Center for the Tailgate Party on November 4th before the football game.

Cindy reported that we have 4 males and 3 females plus three adults coming from Kameoka in October. The weekends they are here are both OSU Homecoming and Bedlam football. There is a concern expressed by the middle school that hotels likely not be available for the three adults. Samuel Zeid will be here, as will a female City of Kameoka representative. Jacie Gray is learning whether the third teacher is male or female. We potentially have the use of a two-bedroom cottage owned by Hillcrest Baptist Church that could house two of the adults. We will continue to be in contact with Kameoka concerning their ability to find hotel rooms. The cottage could be used for meals if we need to use that facility.

The Middle School is currently working on homestays and the daily schedule for the visit. The school has seven teams of students. One of the Japanese students will be assigned to each team to attend classes and do activities with students on that team.

Right now, the Council is waiting for more information from the middle school as well as housing information from Kameoka to determine what the school and Kameoka needs from us and what we need to do. We will stay in close contact with Samuel Zeid and Kari Quigley in the weeks ahead as we approach the visit. Cindy reported on Stephanie Kinder’s notes about gifts and the need for everyone to be available for the Tailgate on November 4th.

We had a brief discussion about sending a representative with the CLIC team for the portion of their visit when they are in Kameoka, as not all of their time will be spent there, Cindy suggested that Dale Durham be considered as a representative since he had not been to Kameoka. She also suggested that the Council start thinking about the 35th anniversary of the Sister School Agreement in 2024 and consider sending Matthew Payne as a representative since he was part of the first exchange. In 2024, Stillwater Middle School will be visiting Kameoka and a

celebration of this anniversary could take place during that time. Matthew suggested that this might be a good time for the Mayor to go, to help with the official anniversary celebration as a second-generation Stillwater student who had participated in the exchanges locally.

6. Adjourn

The motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Payne. Second, Judy Nelson. All voted yes. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm