

STILLWATER SISTER CITIES COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2024

1. Call to Order – Cindy Petree called the meeting to order at 4:04pm

Members Present: Cindy Petree, Judy Nelson, Jacie Gray, Dale Durham, Linda Ely, Becky Irby, Bob Burk

Members Absent: John Mills, Matt Payne
2. Introduction of Guests

Jim Shideler, OSU Global; Joyce Crawford, OSU Multicultural Affairs, Nathan Horton, OSU English Dept.
3. Approval of minutes – October 24, 2023
Bob Burk made a motion to approve the minutes. Linda Ely seconded the motion. All votes yes.
4. Items for Discussion/Possible Action
 - a) CLIC, English Department, Oklahoma State University – Ho’omana (Nathan) Horton, International Teaching Assistant Program Coordinator

Nathan Horton is faculty in the English Department at OSU. He had the pleasure to work with the CLIC program to help train 12 elementary teachers (8 from Kameoka) in the teaching of English. He also had the opportunity to visit Kameoka this past month to follow up with the teachers, observe them in schools, and strengthen the relationship with our sister city, including several meetings with the Mayor of Kameoka and his office. Nathan mentioned the appreciation shared by the Kameoka student/teacher delegation that traveled to Stillwater in October, 2023.
 - b) Discussion, planning, and possible action regarding Sister Cities Council participation in the upcoming student exchange program between Stillwater Middle School and Kameoka, Japan.

Cindy Petree reported on the plans for student selection for the Middle School student exchange to Kameoka in Fall 2024. There will be two parents meetings for interested 6th grade students; Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2pm and Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6pm. Parents must attend one meeting for students to apply. Teacher input and interviews will take place Feb. 15 – March 15 with selection around April 1. Three teachers/administrators will be traveling with the delegation; Jackie Jackson, Middle School Assistant Principal, Kari Quigley, Exchange Program Coordinator, Jake Ehrlich, teacher. Tentative dates for the exchange are Oct. 17 – 27, 2024.

Cindy also reported we have requested to send a citizen delegation and City of Stillwater Mayor Joyce to accompany the student/teacher delegation. Confirmation and details are still being discussed.

5. Council/staff announcements of items of interest to the Council.

Jim Shideler reported that Tim Huff will retire from OSU as of February 1, 2024. Tim has supported the Sister Cities Council for decades as the liaison for Oklahoma State University, providing guidance, activity coordination and support, and overall contributing to the program success. Jim also reported on the International Student Statistics for the spring semester. Preliminary count indicates there are currently 1539 international students enrolled at OSU. There are efforts underway to increase those numbers with a goal of 2500.

6. Adjourn- Becky Irby made a motion to adjourn. Linda Ely seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 5:24pm.