

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Philadelphia

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2020

Present: Morgan Beard (taking minutes), Frank Chance, Ken Cohen, Rommy Driks, Brandon Forsht, Drew Hanson, Sachiko Houck, Mary Lynn Howard, Taiko Ruf, Terry Sherwin, Travis Shick, Nahks Tr'Ehnl, Keijiroh Yamaguchi

We received an additional five proxies, establishing a quorum.

Opening

Frank Chance called the meeting to order at 11:07.

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

Election of New Board Members

Morgan Beard went over the slate of current and nominated officers.

Frank opened floor for other board nominees or other officer nominees. There were no additional nominations.

It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously to adopt the slate of nominated board members.

Frank Chance and Morgan Beard thanked outgoing board members Terry Sherwin and Shoko Kato for their service. Both have done excellent work during their tenure on the board and will be greatly missed.

Terry Sherwin asked about whether she could continue to serve on or head the Demonstration Committee even if she wasn't on the board. There was agreement that she can certainly continue to serve on the committee, but we need to check on what to do about leadership.

There was also a suggestion about recruiting a lawyer for board membership to ask for advice on legal issues. It was noted that member Ken Cohen is a lawyer; he was present at the meeting and said that he is available to help with questions.

Activities in 2020

Morgan Beard gave an overview of activities in 2020 (also reported in the document "Annual Meeting Snapshot 2021").

Before the pandemic began, our members performed a number of public and private demonstrations, including two at the Nihon Gakko (Japanese School) and one in connection with a tea bowl exhibition at the Wallingford Art Center. After pandemic restrictions were imposed, demonstration activities largely

stopped, although members did an online talk on seasonality in tea ceremony and a tea demonstration for moon-viewing (Otsukimi).

As more events began to take place online, we participated in the North America Chado Relay on Facebook (organized by Urasenke), where we posted pictures and history about our group in a shared Facebook page.

Among our group, following an in-person celebration of Hatsugama, we had a combination in-person/virtual Tanabata gathering and a fully virtual Robiraki. We also had a series of Zoom discussions on various tea topics.

Lessons had been taking place as usual up until the pandemic forced everyone to socially distance in March; after that, lessons happened via Zoom and also sometimes in person, with precautions and held outdoors or in well-ventilated areas.

Finances

Treasurer Drew Hanson presented an overview of the association's finances. (See separate document "Financial Summary for 2020.") A smaller Hatsugama in 2020, the lack of other events that would normally produce income, and a slight drop in membership resulted in less cash coming in than we would have otherwise. However, overall, the news is good: we took in more money than we spent, ending the year with \$10,322.36 in cash.

There was a question about how the money from demonstrations is handled, and whether the association gets a set percentage. Demonstrators are paid directly for the demonstrations; some may choose to donate part of the fee back to the association, but there's no set policy about it.

For the 2021 budget, Terry Sherwin mentioned that there may be a need to buy additional supplies to support demonstrations (trays, tea bowls, and so on).

Activities in 2021 and Beyond

Keijiroh Yamaguchi is organizing a trip to Japan in 2022 for 10th anniversary of our Tankokai. The Events Committee will take on the organization of the Philadelphia-based celebration; Morgan Beard, chair of the committee, will begin work on that soon, and will put out a call for volunteers.

There was a question about whether Shofuso is planning demonstrations for 2021. Terry Sherwin has been talking to Kim Andrews, the Executive Director of the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, about it. Shofuso is planning to open as usual in April, but the status of demonstrations is not clear. Incoming board member Yuka Yokoyama will likely be organizing that on Shofuso's end, and may be able to provide more insight.

There was some discussion of ways that we could get together that might be more fun than a formal gathering; suggestions included a "happy hour" with quizzes or sharing anything people are currently researching.

There was a discussion of how to attract new members and spread the word about tea culture. An idea was to offer classes aimed at people who might not want to formally study tea, but might be interested in some aspect of it, like how to whisk matcha, or how to be a guest at tea ceremony. Maybe post the videos on a YouTube channel of our own?

Sachiko and Morgan volunteered to work together with anyone else who is interested to put something together, with the goal of having a meeting about it sometime in the next couple of weeks.

New Business / Announcements

Although not related to chado itself, Victor Mair of the University of Pennsylvania is giving a presentation at the Penn Museum on January 30 about tea culture in general. There was a suggestion that we might ask him to do a tea culture talk on our behalf also.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.