

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Philadelphia
Board Meeting
March 10, 2019

Attending: Frank Chance, Derek Finn, Keijiroh Yamaguchi, Drew Hanson, Mary Lynn Howard, Morgan Beard, Terry Sherwin

Absent: Sachiko Houck, Shoko Kato, Brandon Forsht

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m.

The agenda adopted with amendments

Report of the Demonstration Committee

We've had a few demonstration requests this spring, including a pending request from Muhlenberg College.

There was some discussion of the process of determining fees for demonstrations. The person who does the demo discusses fees directly with the people requesting the demonstration. There is some room for flexibility, but there is a standard list of fees and the committee asks that people not go below the minimum to discourage the requesters from "price shopping."

There was a request to share the demonstration fee list with the board. Morgan suggested creating a shared Google Drive folder so that people could have regular access to policy documents like this and download them as needed.

Report of the Collections Committee

The full collection of utensils that were at La Salle, and that were later donated from other sources, are now in storage at Sachiko Houck's house in King of Prussia, except for items that are in active use for classes at Shofuso. The photos that have been taken of the collection have been uploaded and the catalog of utensils is in process.

The new tatami mats are also being stored in the Sakura Pavilion. This is the climate controlled building, not the unfinished storage area. They're a thinner portable size, so they take up less space.

There was some discussion of the utensils that were left behind by Taeko-sensei. It's understood that her intention was to leave some of her utensils to the association and then get a tax credit for it, but we're not certain if she will take anything else back with her, so we're waiting to make a catalog of it until we know for sure.

There was discussion of developing a gift policy that would cover what kinds of gifts we will and won't accept, what our deaccession policy is, and who cares for the items in between. Frank is going to write a draft of the policy and send it to the rest of the Collections Committee, and also Derek, for comments.

Tea Classes

With a number of people recently licensed to teach, there's been the beginning of discussions about putting together a group of teachers to work through policy questions. There is the potential for monthly meetings, although this has not yet been fully discussed or agreed upon.

There was some discussion of promotion of tea classes in general and how to get the word out about classes; there were suggestions for getting students more involved in events – for example, perhaps doing demos on First Thursday at Shofuso – and also for finding new venues to offer classes and advertise them.

There was also discussion of whether the Tankokai should either official sponsor or regulate classes, although there was no conclusion.

There was a general consensus that the Tankokai is affirmative toward a group like that and would like to support classes in general, and will wait to hear from the group for recommendations.

Events

There was some discussion of plans for the Rikyuki / Keenanki event to be held on March 30 and whether it would make more sense to hold it at Shofuso or King of Prussia. More discussion to follow.

There will be Cherry Blossom events on April 7 (Nodate demonstration at Shofuso), April 13 (Morris Arboretum) and April 14 (Sakura Sunday). We should confirm that the tent will be up for Sakura Sunday.

Worldwide Peace Tea Event – Tea practitioner Marius Froisland is proposing a worldwide tea event on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima (August 6); the idea is that all across the globe at the time of the dropping of the bomb there will be a tea event going on. Drew put it forward to see if it's something we would be considering doing. There was some discussion of location and timing, and also the possibility of partnering with a local tea group like the Quakers. Time would most likely be the evening of the 5th (Monday night), 6-8 p.m. There was general favorability. Drew will send around more information.

New Business

Tatami mats at Shofuso: Keijiroh reported last October Shofuso professional gardeners come from Kobe and did work on roji to change the arrangement, so that it is now better for use as tea roji. Now Kim is writing a grant application to replace the tatamis at Shofuso, and Keijiroh helped her to get a quote about it. He wants to propose to the board that we have sunken ro installed. Frank suggested could get a lot of resistance because would fundamentally change the nature of the site; would have to make a change to the physical structure of the building.

The date for next meeting was set for June 9th, 2019, at 11 a.m. at Drew's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.