

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Philadelphia
Board Meeting
January 5, 2020

Attending: Morgan Beard, Frank Chance, Brandon Forsht, Drew Hanson, Sachiko Houck, Mary Lynn Howard, Shoko Kato, Terry Sherwin, Keijiroh Yamaguchi
Absent: Derek Finn

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

The agenda was amended to include Chicago event and then accepted.

The 60th anniversary of the Chicago Tankokai is to be held May 16-17, 2020. We have all been invited to come if we would like to; there will be a celebration on the 16th and workshops (of as-yet-unspecified content) on the 17th.

Morgan announced that Derek Finn is resigning from the board due to other life commitments. Kyoto does need to be informed; we do not need to find a replacement, because he was not an officer.

Report of the Demonstration Committee

Drew Hanson reported that last week he received an e-mail from Vinni Cheng of Raymond Farm; they are looking to do another fundraiser similar to the one they did in 2018. Drew indicated that she should contact Terry as the new head of the Demonstration Committee.

Drew also noted that in the future he has no interest in doing offsite demonstrations unless they are related to his business, so he will no longer be on the committee in addition to no longer being the chair.

Terry Sherwin noted that Raymond Farm's director is going to come and give a talk at the Acorn Club in April.

A major potential upcoming demo is a chawan exhibition at the Wallingford Art Center. Terry has been holding discussions with the organizer, although he has stopped communicating with her, and they've been unable to finalize discussions of date, and hasn't sent promotional materials to forward.

We were going to do a demonstration on November 14 for the NBC10 people to talk about Japan 2020, but then the temperature dropped below freezing and the demonstration was deferred to the spring.

She had a query from a community group in Northeast Philadelphia, and they are looking for someone who can speak Cantonese. Another query is for a Thursday evening, January 16, with the Torresdale Women's Committee, but Terry hasn't yet found anybody who can do it.

Sachiko will be doing a demonstration on January 18 at the Japanese Language School in Philadelphia.

Mary Lynn did a demonstration at the Tea and Coffee Expo in Oaks on December 21. She served three people from the audience and had a good crowd for the audience.

Terry proposed creating online sign-up sheets for the demos at Shofuso and possibly also for other demos as well. She will try putting together a Google doc and see how it works.

Terry thanked Drew for his leadership of the Demonstration Committee over the years and said she may call him with questions. Keijiroh also thanked Drew for his service.

Keijiroh asked about borrowing mats for demonstrations. Morgan says it's fine to do so, but the storage space at the Sakura Pavilion is locked, so anybody who wants to use them would need to make arrangements to be let in.

Events Committee

Morgan Beard reported that we held Tankokai gatherings for Otsukimi and Robiraki. Both were small events (fewer than ten attendees), but a good time was had by all.

Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 10 a.m. at the Sakura Pavilion. We will need to send proxies to allow us to vote on any business. There was a question about whether or not we could call in remotely—we can have a computer set up so that people can see what's going on and ask questions.

Morgan asked if there was interested in having a Rikyuki gathering and, separately, if anyone had an interest in organizing it. There were no responses either way, but the question was left open for future response. Sachiko mentioned that Taeko-sensei will be coming back to the area on March 20, which may be a factor in scheduling if we do decide to have a gathering.

The Sakura Festival this year will be two days, April 4 and 5. Aaron has asked us if we can do both days. The consensus is that it's a good opportunity, but we can't do it in the same way as previous years because it would be too much to handle.

There was a brief discussion of the Japan Philly 2020 celebration. We can do any type of event—it's up to us to decide. Frank suggested that we could do something during October 6-13, 2020, when they are expecting 75-100 Japanese visitors as part of a grassroots movement. There may also be a group of schoolchildren coming from Fukushima around the same time.

Membership

Shoko Kato has been working on setting up a membership renewal system through an specialized website. She's been encountering some glitches, but once she gets things up and running the tracking of membership and sending renewals will be automatic.

There was a question of how many people are on our list; the answer is between 30 and 40.

Other Items

Terry reported that Tamiko Leinz is bringing in a kimono sensei named Rumi sensei to offer a seminar on sewing the kimono han-eri collar for juban. The date is May 2. Terry will send out information about the class.

Terry also requested that we acquire more colorful chawan to use for demonstrations at Shofuso. She wondered about using Tankokai funds for this and also to buy tea and sweets for demonstrations. There was a consensus that it's reasonable for the Tankokai to reimburse this expense, and Frank said that he would support asking Shofuso to provide funds to the association to cover materials.

There followed a question about whether we have a formal budget for income and expenses (we don't). After some discussion, it was resolved that the Treasurer, Drew Hanson, should develop a budget to be presented to the membership at the annual meeting, and then can be approved by the board later. Morgan will work with him on the practical end of it. Shoko has a template that we can use as a basis; she will send it later.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be virtual again. It will be held Monday, March 9 at 7 p.m. Morgan will send a calendar invite.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.