

Urasenke Philadelphia

Chado Urasenke Tankokai Philadelphia Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2, 2022

Location: Online via Zoom

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: Frank Chance, Brandon Forsht, Drew Hanson, Sachiko Houck, Taiko Ruf, Keijiroh Yamaguchi, Morgan Beard (taking minutes)

Absent: Yuka Yokoyama

Agenda Discussion

Keijiroh Yamaguchi asked about the memorandum of understanding between Urasenke Philadelphia and the Japan America Society of Philadelphia, which he had written and sent to Frank Chance for review. Frank indicated that he was finished reviewing it and that it should go to the rest of the board for review. It was not added to the agenda as an item.

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved by consensus.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Morgan Beard reported on current status. As of the date of the meeting there were about 20 people registered, with more registrations coming in.

There was discussion of the layout of the space—where the tea would be served, where the reception would be, how the dinner would be laid out—and details like tea and sweets.

There was also discussion of who would speak, including who might be invited to offer the toast. Suzuki Gyotei, who is currently teaching in New York City, has been invited to attend. Morgan will consult with the International Affairs Division (which is managing his attendance) about whether he would like to speak.

Demonstration Committee

Sachiko Houck reported on upcoming demonstrations at Shofuso (September 11) and at the Pennsylvania Tea Festival (September 23-24).

Other Events

Keijiroh Yamaguchi reported on the upcoming tea bowl exhibition at the Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA. He has been working with the center and with some local carpenters to arrange the construction of an eight-mat space where there will be tea demonstrations. He suggested that the space could be used for our Hatsugama celebration this year.

Drew Hanson pointed out that for many years, our Hatsugama celebrations have been held toward the western side of Philadelphia or in the suburbs (as is also the case with Wallingford), which would discourage attendance from people from New Jersey.

Dates and times for Robiraki and Hatsugama were discussed.

Decision: Because of the unique opportunity offered by the tea bowl exhibition, we will have the celebration in Wallingford for 2023 but explore possible spaces in (or convenient to) New Jersey for future gatherings. Because of the tight timing (construction will only be finished shortly before the exhibition), the only possible dates are the weekend of January 28-29. A date of January 28 was set, with January 29 as a snow date.

(However, after the meeting, it was discovered that January 28 was not a possible date after all. The gathering was set for January 29, with no snow date.)

The annual meeting date was tentatively set for January 22, 2023, but further discussion will be needed on timing.

Action item: Confirm date and time after the anniversary celebration and book the space.

Owner: Morgan Beard

Deadline: As soon as possible after the anniversary celebration

Status: Hold

Decision: Robiraki will be a hybrid event, with people at various locations holding smaller in-person events for anyone who would like to come and the gatherings streamed live to participants who can't come to an in-person event (formal like Hatsugama 2022)

Action item: Send save-the-date messages to members and association friends.

Owner: Morgan Beard

Deadline: Ongoing

Status: Initial save-the-dates were sent after this meeting; more reminders to follow.

Other Business

It was agreed that it would be good to try to get a greater response from members on the membership survey. Frank to send reminders.

Morgan is using Zeffy, a service that is free to nonprofits, to handle registration for the anniversary event, and they can handle membership sales also. She distributed a link to the site for future consideration.

Frank recommended the current ikebana exhibition at Shofuso for a visit. He is also on the committee working on the Cherry Blossom Festival for 2023, which will be a 2-day event, and he anticipates that there will be a tea presence there.

The next meeting date was set for Sunday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45.