

Tomo No Kai General Meeting

January 17, 2023 Minutes

Call to order at 6:00 PM

Financial Update

Just finished Chitose inbound trip – receipts are still coming, so we don’t have an update on that yet. Our budget was $5k, and we’re pretty sure we’ll be using that up. Chitose outbound has started collecting money for the summer trip, too – we have collected approximately $12K so far.

Cherry Blossom

Mr. Thompson hasn’t received much response from Sand Lake teachers yet on whether they want to continue coordinating the Cherry Blossom festival. Trying to make a decision about whether the teachers want to continue using this as a fundraiser for them, and if they don’t want to do that, TNK will take over running it as a fundraiser for TNK. We do plan on having it, but we’re just not sure yet about the logistics. This could be an additional opportunity for families to get hours towards the Chitose trip. Mr. Thompson hopes to be able to let us know by Thursday which way the teachers want to go. Teachers will have 30 minutes added to their days starting on January 30th, so they will be stretched tightly. No date set yet for the event.

Spring Art Auction

We did this auction online last year. This event is adult only and has alcohol, food, a silent auction, and a live auction. Looking at making it a little more upscale this year at the Quarter Deck (capacity is 150) or at 49th State (capacity is 250) – would need to look at the budget and also charge more for tickets. Someone else also suggested the Ann Stevens room at the Library (capacity is 100). At a place like 49th State, we would need to use their food and beverages, as opposed to coordinating that ourselves and getting discounted alcohol.

Advertising – once we have a date and a venue, do we want to try to do some advertising to bring in outside people? Or do we want to keep it internal to Japanese Immersion? Someone suggested that we can do a presale for TNK first and then expand beyond to others after that point.

The tentative date is April 29th.

Intern Update

Kamimura Sensei update – we currently have 7 interns – one of them is leaving Feb 6th. Kamimura and the other interns are trying to plan something nice for her before she leaves. Another intern, who is also on a B visa, is trying to extend her stay. Kamimura is looking for help from any families who might have legal connections and can advise on immigration/intern related issues. He has a contact at ASD who is trying to help.

All interns have host families for the rest of the year, which is great news. For next year, we currently have no prospective interns. Kamimura is in contact with six colleges who are trying to recruit interns, but only 2 have sent interns to Anchorage so far. Kamimura was hoping to offer college credits for the work they do here, but it is difficult because they are taking the year off from school to come here. They might send students here for a month or so in order for them to help them decide if they want to do an internship.

Chitose – just hosted the Middle School and High School students, and now we will be hosting some college students from Chitose for a week in February – 6th- through the following Sunday. Kamimura has already found host families for them. There will be 9 students and 4 adults from Chitose City – 5 will be at Sand Lake, 3 will be at Mears, and 1 at Dimond. They will also go to UAA for a day during the week.

Community School Fair

January 28th at the Loussac Library – TNK will have a booth to advertise to preschools and childcare providers – it’s from 1-4 – we want to staff the table with parent and student volunteers – will have a sign-up to take slots. Looking for flyers and photos and stuff to have at the booth. Kourtney is going to make some flyers, use the leftover TNK bags to give little swag bags. Maybe we could have an activity like origami folding.

Membership Drive

Will be starting this in the next couple of weeks.

Stephanie made a plug for board membership and is trying to encourage folks to let us know if they have interest.