

MINUTES FOR THE  
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY BOARD  
March 4, 2026  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

**Roll Call**

Present:

- Ross Chambless
- Matilyn Mortensen
- Sheri Sorenson
- Ahimara Suarez
- Annie Quan

Absent:

- Stacey Adams
- John Wilson
- Nicole Gallo
- Rose Kjesbo
- Jane Kim

Staff Present:

- Olivia Johnson
- Jake Maxwell
- Spencer Madanay, City Recorder's Office
- Jennifer Newell, Mayor's Office

**Approval of the January 14, 2026, Sister Cities Board Minutes**

Board Member Quan motioned, Board Member Mortensen seconded, unanimous approval.

**Public Comment**

No public comments were provided.

**Business**

Jennifer Newell discussed the possibility of Sister Cities connecting with the YouthCity program to strengthen youth programming. The Board also discussed potentially working with libraries on similar after school programming for the Pen Pal program.

## **Staff Report**

### Quezon City

Olivia Johnson noted that a call was scheduled with Quezon City to plan celebrations.

### Strategic Planning

Olivia Johnson noted the low response rate for the question to the Board of goals for strategic planning and the plans to have time set aside at the next meeting to do this.

### Events

Olivia Johnson noted that Sister Cities was again planning to table at Nihon Matsuri on April 25, 2026. The Board determined that Sister Cities would table at the Asian Festival on June 6, 2026, as well.

### Korean Pavilion

Olivia Johnson noted that the permit and construction process for the Korean Pavilion was moving forward.

### Miscellaneous

Olivia Johnson noted that the video for Matsumoto was posted to the Sister Cities website, the Mayor had a successful visit with Torino during her trip to the Olympics, there was no word yet on the grant application, and that there was still community support for a potential Sister City with Guadalajara. Assistance for the program archiving and cataloging position was still being pursued.

## **City Report:**

- Chernivtsi - Sheri Sorenson provided an update on upcoming events focused on Ukraine.
- Keelung - Board Member Quan said that there had not been contact with anyone in Keelung recently.
- Matsumoto - Board Chair Chambless noted that there would be a visit in July with youth from Matsumoto.
- Torino - Olivia Johnson was going to connect with city staff in Torino for goal setting.

## **Adjournment**

With the loss of a quorum, the meeting was adjourned.



Ross Chambless, Co-Chair

This document and the recording constitute the official minutes of the Economic Development Sister Cities Advisory Board meeting held on March 4, 2026.

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