



## Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

6:00 p.m. via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call - Evan Sirchuk, Marilyn Leong Lee, Chris Gioia, Augusto Gonzalez, Maryann Maslan, Forest Borie
2. Reading and approval of minutes - The minutes were reviewed by the commissioners present.
3. Input on Agenda - no input
4. Commissioner Reports
  - Evan – is adding more content to the website about what it means to be a commissioner. He is also working on updating the application for adult chaperones to include personal statements, resumes and additional relevant information. Evan recommends that commissioners reach out to contacts in Japan to give good wishes.
  - Maryann – downloaded the Shimada, Japan guide book that was provided by Zelda's archives. It needs to be updated. The current version is 1993; she will start the process of updating the guidebook. Evan will reach out to Esther and Yas to inquire if they have copies of other materials. Homestay Family Guide, Visitor's Guide and the ambassador guide.
  - Forest – It has been a challenge. Hopes to have responses by the end of the year. The school that he is working at is closing.
  - Marilyn – It was nice to hear the report from Forest. Hopefully, he will be able to continue serving on the commission and/or being the adult chaperone for the 2021 ambassador trip. Evan suggested agendaizing the issue as the date gets closer to discuss his eligibility to serve. Forest has put a lot of effort in starting the pen pal program and offered to serve as the chaperone.
5. Important Business
  - Welcome New Commissioners
    - Augusto Gonzalez
    - Chris Gioia

- 2021 Youth Ambassador Program
  - Application for Richmond Ambassadors
    - 2020 Ambassadors need to make a commitment by September 30<sup>th</sup> if they wish to participate in 2021
    - Applications from new applicants will be sent in October. The deadline would be December 5<sup>th</sup> and interviews in January.
    - Submittal of passports and checks will be needed to purchase airline tickets in February.
  - Update on Shimada Ambassadors
    - Evan will notify the Shimada officials that Richmond is not able to receive more than 8 ambassadors from Shimada.
    - The commission will prepare to receive the Shimada ambassadors in March; pending travel restrictions
    - The commission could possibly duplicate the planned 2020 schedule for 2021.
  - Schedule the next meeting
    - The next meeting will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm
    - Marilyn suggested inviting the 2019 Richmond ambassadors to the next meeting
    - For the future meetings, the zoom password should be all numbers

#### 6. Good of the Order/Adjournment

- Marilyn suggested asking Shimada for an updated visitor's guide.
- Evan will contact commissioners to check in with them to make sure they don't have issues with attending meetings virtually.
- Maryann suggested a virtual event on December 12<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the anniversary of the friendship.