

Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 6th, 2021
---(Via Zoom Call)---

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

(Highlighted or checked Names Attended)

- Evan Sirchuk, Chair
- Valerie Snider, Secretary
- Maryann Maslann, Commissioner
- Jamie Brown, Commissioner
- Yas Aoki, Commissioner
- Esther Takeuchi, Commissioner
- Zelda Holland, Commissioner
- Robyn Rickansrud, Commissioner
- Trina Jackson, Staff Liaison

2. Reading and approval of minutes **no quorum; can't approve minutes**

3. Commissioner Reports **Evan** It's hard to function without a quorum. A quorum is 50% of commissioners plus one. **Valerie** I'll ask Trina when we can meet in person - this might bring more commissioners back to the meetings. **Jamie** Regarding sketches from Mayor Butt: he doesn't have any of Richmond, but he'll think about it. Suggestions from commissioners are the Richmond City Museum or the Richmond Plunge.

4. Input on Agenda

5. Important Business **The joint Richmond-Shimada 60th Anniversary event is Dec. 11, 2021 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm California time**

- Review Takeaways from Joint meeting
 - List of possible presentations: Gather content from local highlights and art orgs. **Maryann suggests we have 3 performing groups. Maryann will reach out to Los Cenztontles cultural group for possible content. Maryann suggested that we provide a stipend to artists for their contribution (approx. \$100 per group or individual); everyone agreed.**
 - Finalize gift list and budget
 - **\$1000 budget is allocated for the 60th anniversary.**
 - **Evan looked at the most recent Commission bank statement. The balance in the account is \$14, 594.81. Valerie asked what is the process for spending the money; she will ask Trina via email.**

- [Shimada Gift Basket Item Ideas](#)
 - Order Rich City Clothing **The shirts are coming**
 - We still have water bottles and soft lunch boxes
 - Art to showcase in Richmond:
 - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rsCnh4Q69Chrzk8y1_S45DfZBydJhE_j?usp=sharing
 - <https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2020/12/28/2004523/-Shellmo-und-park-sprang-from-miracles>
 - Evan provided a link to the master list of commissioners, host families, former ambassadors, and others who we will invite to the event. Evan predicts we will have a maximum of 40 people.
 - Valerie suggested first sending a “save the date” email before the formal invitation. Maryann suggested the 2nd week of October for the “save the date” announcement, so we have an idea about how many people will attend.
 - Jamie suggested we order bento boxes for those who plan to attend (at the expense of the attendee). Someone will have to pick up the boxes and bring them to the venue.
 - Maryann suggested a room at the Richmond Library. Valerie will contact Trina about the possibility of renting the room.
- City council Presentation **The presentation will last about 5 minutes.**
 - On the 27th of July
 - Last opportunity before Summer recess
 - Content of presentation?
 - Evan will deliver if someone else will write it. He wants to emphasize the following 5 points:
 - *1. 60th anniversary is in December, 2021. We (the Commission) would like a proclamation from the City acknowledging the anniversary and the 60-year sister city relationship.*
 - *2. We hope to resume the exchange of students to/from Japan in 2022.*
 - *3. We want to continue the program, "re-introduce" our city to Shimada, "re-ignite" the connection, and make Richmond attractive to Japanese*

students. The theme of the 60th anniversary is "keep the connection going."

- *4. We want to acknowledge the City Council members who have been involved in the commission: Demulus Johnson and Nat Bates, both of whom attended the Obi Festival in Shimada in October, 2019. Also, we want to thank mayor Butt for inviting the Japanese students to visit city hall.*
- *5. The recently re-elected mayor of Shimada wants to visit Richmond in 2022. She has been an enthusiastic supporter of the commission in Shimada.*
 - City declaration of 60th anniversary
 - Other Points? Future Plans?
 - Benefits of showcasing the city
 - Can someone take on writing this? *Jamie volunteered to write the draft of the presentation*
 - - Evam is available for support

- Penpal opportunities with Shimada Residents
 - We still have four Japanese penpals ready for letters!

6. Good of the Order/Adjournment *Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm*

Useful Resources:

[Programs Proposed by the Shimada Side](#)