



Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission  
Minutes  
Wednesday, September 7, 2022  
---(Via Zoom Call)---

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the delegation to the Obi Matsuri Festival in Shimada, Japan taking place Oct. 7 to Oct. 10.

Attendees:

Chair Evan Shirchuk, Commissioners Jamie Brown, Valerie Snider, and Maryann Maslan, Mayor Tom Butt, Staff Liaison Trina Jackson-Lincoln, former commissioners Steve Pinto, Steve Kirby, and guest delegates Shirley Butt, Linda Whitmore and Charlies Sirchuk.

Meeting began at approx. 6:00 p.m.

- 1) From Evan: One of the goals of sending a delegation from Richmond to Shimada for the Obi Festival is to strengthen our ties to our sister city, especially since there have been no student exchanges since the pandemic.
- 2) From Jamie: Reminder – we are not traveling on a tourist visa. Instead, it is a short-term business visa sponsored by the Shimada International Exchange Association. The association is “responsible” for Richmond delegates both in Shimada and travel outside of Shimada. Suggestions were offered regarding how to interact and how to speak in English with Japanese citizens. Delegates will be expected to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
- 3) From Trina: There are 13 individuals in the delegation. The welcome dinner is Oct. 7 at 7:00pm. The mayor of Shimada would like delegates to arrive by 6:00 for a pre-dinner meeting.
- 4) There were introductions by all of those present at the meeting. The delegation is comprised of elected officials, present and former Richmond-Shimada Commissioners, support staff and guest delegates
- 5) There was a discussion about applying for the visa using the online application.

- 6) Delegates were advised on protocols, to bring small gifts of appreciation for hospitality.

Meeting adjourned at approx. 7:00 p.m.