

## *Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission*

Wednesday, September 5th, 2018

6:00 p.m. Shimada Room

440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, Ca.

- I) Call to Order and Roll Call – Commissioners Marilyn Lee, Evan Sirchuk, Esther Takeuchi, Yas Aoki, Lisa Weaver and two youth ambassadors, Chris and Ariana were present
  
- II) Reading and approval of minutes – There were no minutes to approve. The commission opted to host a table at the World One Festival on July 4<sup>th</sup> instead of holding the monthly meeting. There was no meeting in August.
  
- III) Input on Agenda – No input
  
- IV) Commissioner Reports – No reports
  
- V) Important Business

### **a) Preparing for green tea tasting**

- Brought supplies based on 300 samples.

### **b) Reports from Ambassadors (General Questioning)**

- Suggestions for Omiyage updates:
  - i. Homemade Items
  - ii. Shirts or hats related to things in the Bay Area.
  - iii. Gift-giving is no longer allowed in schools but is okay during company visits and night classes.
  - iv. Not as much food stuff because American food is easily found in Japanese food markets.
- Notes on the night classes:
  - i. Yagi-san is currently running the night classes.

- ii. For future classes, try asking the students what they want to learn at the end of the class so that the next class is relevant to the adult students' interests.
- Notes on the school visits:
  - i. The no photo policy has become stricter.
  - ii. Lisa Weaver suggested visiting one school for the whole day to learn more in depth about how subjects are taught in Japanese schools. This could also be a good way to build connections between the American ambassadors and the former Japanese ambassadors.

### **c) Reports from Ambassadors (Essay Presentations)**

- All of the students and the teachers presented their essays, you can find a link to the written versions below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BqwDywO4rSTIBc6OLdWQw1FvSULRQsq-?usp=sharing>

### **d) The next group of Japanese ambassadors.**

- Their visit will be from March 21st until March 31st.
- The visit will be 10 days total, we are not sure which day they will be staying in the hotel.
- The group will consist of one adult and 8 students.

### **e) Obi Matsuri Festival 2019**

- We considered the inclusion of City officials, including the mayor and interested Council members.
- Marilyn and Esther noted that flights between SFO and Japan are as low as \$500 in October.

- Consider Contacting the Japanese travel bureau for flight assistance/booking.

VI) Good of the Order/Adjournment