

Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

6:00 p.m. Shimada Room

440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Commissioners Yas Aoki, Maryann Jacobson, Marilyn Leong Lee, Zelda Holland, Evan Sirchuk, Esther Takeuchi and Josh Miklich were present along with guests Forest Borie, John Henry High School; Angela Anthony, 2019 Chaperone; Helen Chen, 2019 Youth Ambassador. Staff Trina Jackson was present.

2. Reading and approval of minutes

The minutes were reviewed and approved with corrections – Co-chair Lee will make corrections and submit to staff

3. Input on Agenda

Co-chair Sirchuk mentioned that a page was missing from the notes that he submitted from his meeting with Shimada Officials while in Shimada on October 15, 2019. The full notes were previously provided via email.

4. Commissioner Reports

- a. Commissioner's experiences at the Obi Matsuri Festival!

Evan Sirchuk reported on his discussion topics while in Shimada:

2020 Ambassador Program – the cost may be higher for airfare due to the Olympics from July 22nd to August 9th. If the students go the week after summer break, they may be able to return to Richmond before the Olympic games start and avoid the price hikes.

Potential Business Exchange – Shimada was very interested in this idea.

Potential 2020 Delegation from Shimada – Shimada would like to send a delegation of approximately 15 Shimada officials to Richmond for two days. They would like the commission to help with a city tour, attendance at a City Council meeting, meet and greet with the council and a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, if Mayor Someya travels with the delegation. Possible travel dates would be in April or May of 2020.

60th Anniversary of sister city relationship in 2021 – Ideas include a possible exchange between artists from both municipalities and/or adding a new piece to Shimada park. The commission should contact the Art Center and/or the Arts and Culture Commission for input.

5. Important Business

- Getting the word out for 2020 Richmond Ambassador Applications
 - How are things going with getting applications and posters out to schools?

Marilyn Leong Lee sent electronic emails to various supporters of the program and asked Trina Jackson to move forward with emailing the teachers in the WCCUSD.

- Did we find a work-around for peach-tree distribution fees?

Trina Jackson will work with Angela Anthony to make contact with the school district to inquire because the program is only for students in the WCCUSD and should be supported by the district.

- Update on Pen Pal Program
 - Accepted for 90 Students
 - Mrs. Hagiwara, former Shimada principal and current commissioner is working on making this happen with the Shimada school board
- Currently waiting for a status update.

Shimada will provide additional information regarding the request for a Pen Pal program with John Henry High School.

- End of year celebration Hot Pot Dinner on December 21st.
 - Date: Sunday, December 21st

Dinner at 6pm
 - Miso Hotpot Dinner at Evan's house
 - Volunteers needed to help with ingredient prep, cutting vegetables etc.

Those willing to help prepare are expected at 4pm
 - This will also be a potluck, but side dishes can be small
 - Please no sweets.
 - Volunteer needed to draft the email invite and or phone invites
 - The current contact list can be found here:
 - <https://richmondfriendship.org/contactsheet.html>
 - You must first request access

Angela Anthony and Trina Jackson volunteered to assist Evan.

- Can we get an initial estimate of attendees?
- Possible Richmond and Shimada business connections.
 - Evan proposed a possible pilot program.

- See if the cities can connect two pairs of businesses between the two cities.

- Focus on finding two businesses that are very good matches.

- Evan Mentioned

- Brewery

- Glassworks

- Bakery

- Shimada Commissioners Mentioned

- Green Tea

- Sake Brewery

- Fireworks Factory

- Shimada commission agreed to gather a list of interested businesses in Shimada.

The commissioners gave brief comments on the ideas mentioned. Evan Sirchuk will report back as conversations continue with Shimada Officials

- Upcoming presentation to the City Council (11/26)

- November session may be canceled due to holidays

- Reached out to Trina for confirmation

- Goal of the presentation would be to make ourselves more visible to the city council

- 10 min maximum length

- Ambassador presentations?

Trina Jackson confirmed that the presentation will be on the 11/26 agenda and provided tips on how to prepare with one person making the presentation and others that wish to give comments should sign up to speak. She also stated that Councilmember Bates would frame/introduce the presentation.

6. Good of the Order/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at ~7:45pm

Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission Meeting with Shimada Officials

Tuesday, October 15th, 2019

1:00 p.m. Popuri Cafe

Shimada, Japan

MINUTES

Call to Order

1. Attendees

- a. Tom Yagi
- b. Takeo Tanaka
- c. Akiko Masanobu
- d. Toshi Hagiwara
- e. Mutsumi Ochiai
- f. Evan Sirchuk

2. Important Business

- 2020 Japanese Student Group to Richmond.
 - Arrival 3/20/2019 in the afternoon.
 - Departure:
 - 28th night in San Francisco Hotel in Richmond
 - 29th flight back to Shimada
 - 8 Students
 - 1 Teacher (Miku Soga)
 - Student interviews will occur on November 4th and 5th.

- 2020 American Student Group to Shimada.
 - This year, we will revert to 4 students, and 1 teacher
 - More than four students is difficult for transportation in Shimada.
 - If possible, pick a flight that arrives earlier in the day.
 - Red Eye flights are difficult for host families in Shimada
 - Olympic games may interfere with flight costs.
 - The Olympics are 7/22/20 through 8/9/20.
 - Para Olympics are 8/25/20 through 9/6/20.
 - 28th night in San Francisco Hotel in Richmond
 - 29th flight back to Shimada
 - If possible, can we move. Earlier in the year?

- How does this align with summer vacation?
 - In the future, send e-tickets to the Japanese commission so that we can avoid the issue of people coming to the airport on the wrong day
 - for insurance, bring an extra \$10 per person for additional injury and property damage liability insurance, it will be purchased by the Shimada commission.

- Adult Group Coming to Richmond
 - Led by Tom Yagi
 - Total people would be 15 to 20.
 - Preliminary plan would be to stay at the same hotel near the hilltop mall.
 - Many of the visitors will be older and unable to take the train.
 - Tom will organize coach transit.
 - Exact schedule is not set.
 - The preliminary schedule is Richmond for two days, San Francisco for two days,
 - and Los Angeles, or Hawaii for two days.
 - Richmond activities.
 - This is City Council meeting, meet and greet with the mayor city council and commissioners sightseeing tour of Richmond.
 - Mayor, so Maya, may be on this trip.
 - If the Shimada Mayor visits she will want to also visit the Chamber of Commerce and other possible business outreach opportunities.

- Upcoming 60th anniversary of Richmond Shimada Friendship (2021)
 - Possible opportunity for artists exchange?
 - Add a new piece to Shimada Park.
 - No plans yet on the Shimada side.

- Possible Richmond and Shimada business connections.
 - Evan proposed a possible pilot program.
 - See if the cities can connect two pairs of businesses between the two cities.
 - Focus on finding two businesses that are very good matches.
 - Evan Mentioned
 - Brewery
 - Glassworks
 - Bakery

- Shimada Commissioners Mentioned
 - Green Tea
 - Sake Brewery
 - Fireworks Factory
- Shimada commission agreed to gather a list of interested businesses in Shimada.

- Proposal of Pen-Pal Program
 - 90 students in the pen pal program.
 - The Shimada Commission agrees to this!
 - Toshi Hagiwara, one of the Japanese commissioners is a former principal.
 - She is bringing this idea to the Shimada school board.
 - She had a Richmond pen pal when she was a student, so she resonated with this opportunity.