



Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission Meeting

MINUTES

April 8, 2020

4pm

- I. Welcome and Roll Call – ***Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08pm Commissioners Lewis, Peterson, Golovets, Berry, Kong, Li and Port Director Jim Matzorkis and Staff Liaison Trina Jackson were on the call. Chair Zhao was not able to access the call due to a technical problem with the conference line.***

- II. Review and approve minutes from previous meeting(s).
Commissioner Li made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Berry seconded he motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

- III. Treasurer’s Report – ***Staff Liaison Jackson reported there was no change.***
 - a. Committee raised funds - \$288.71
 - b. City allocated funds - \$1,000

- IV. Reports from subcommittees
 - a. Education – ***Commissioner Peterson reported Coronavirus has disrupted programming. The international students are still trying to go back to China and will finish their studies online; the US government has made an exception to do so. The other exchanges have been put on hold. He further reported that the school received a federal grant to have a summer program for Richmond students to learn mandarin from preschool on up (need specific grade level) at the Mandarin school. The grant is close to \$100k and will be deferred until the summer. The grant was awarded by the Dept. of Defense for specific languages to increase foreign language capacity in the community. Eric’s employment position may change with the district, but he will remain the president for the exchange program.***
 - b. Economic Development – ***There has been no changes since the last meeting. Commissioner Li received a report that China is focusing on selling health related***

equipment, ppe, ventilators, thermal scanners and other health related products.

c. Tourism – Co-chair Lewis reported that all Richmond hotels are operating. The East Brother Lighthouse has stopped taking guests during this time. The operating hotels are under 10% occupancy, but 10 hotels are still operation. Richmond does well when sf does well due to overflow. Most conventions have been cancelled with only 4 that have rescheduled by the end of the year. The longer this continues, the more likely that our hotels will have to take action. It is unfortunate considering how much progress had been made. Port Director Matzorkis indicated that business travel has ceased. Lewis - Microsoft indicated that they will not have conferences until the second quarter of next year.

- V. Pending Old Business – Commissioners Joseph Kong and Eric Peterson are continuing to collaborate and plan international programs to occur when all is clear.***
- VI. New Business – All is on pause due to the coronavirus. The Port is still open to keep supplies coming in via water, air and land freight.***
- VII. Other matters of interest – Zhouhsan was on shut down for two months; they are intermittently coming back online with precautions ie. masks and social distancing. Matt reported that in hospitality, employees are being laid off due to the global traveling ban. Li reported that the airlines are impacted; there are no direct flights into Beijing. Travelers that arrive via connections have to go into quarantine for 14 days. The government has been using the local hotels for quarantined travelers. Airlines are only operating at 4% capacity mainly for freight instead of people. Once the travel ban is lifted, it is expected that business will rebound quickly.***
- VIII. Schedule the next meeting - The next meeting is scheduled for May 13th at 4pm via Zoom.***
- IX. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.***