

Richmond-Zhousan Friendship Commission

Minutes

December 10, 2018

- I. Welcome and Roll Call – Commissioners Matt Lewis, James Lee, Leonard Berry, Eric Peterson, Wei Li and staff Jim Matzorkis and Trina Jackson
 - a. Commissioner Peterson welcomed Commissioner Li and reiterated that she was the adjunct professor that assisted with the summer education program to send 200 students to summer camp in China.
- II. Review minutes from the October meeting – Minutes were reviewed, but not approved due to a lack of a quorum
- III. Report from Subcommittees
 - a. Education –
 - i. Wei reported that the teachers are observing ESL classes in the morning and serving as teacher assistants in the afternoon. The teachers are leaving on January 18th and the commission should plan a farewell event.
 - ii. Peterson reported that they're working on another exchange program for the next academic year in China. Suggested holding a conference and include other cities. Schools may come to visit Richmond. Funds are no longer available for the \$20k stipend for the teachers. The WCCUSD will not be able to cover the cost.
 - b. Peterson was invited to present at Tom Torlakson's office to expand Chinese language in the school district. The purpose was to provide information on implementing Mandarin Language programs in California schools. Other states have been more aggressive to create K-12 pathways of learning Mandarin.
 - i. Council Liaison Martinez asked Peterson to contact Thurmond about sponsoring the exchange for a one-way program (with no requirement to know Mandarin). Thurmond introduced a bill for a two-way program that has a requirement of Mandarin speakers. Peterson would like to meet with Thurmond; the commission discussed attending as well to review potential avenues for funding. Martinez and Matzorkis asked Jackson to reach out to Thurmond's office to schedule a meeting in the early part of the year. Matzorkis asked Peterson to draft a letter requesting a meeting with Jackson to follow up. Peterson asked commissioners to review the list of activities to support the teachers.
 - ii. Potential location for the Farewell Dinner – PNE in Oakland, the buffet in Concord or the new restaurant in Albany. Peterson will forward information to the commission. January 16 was selected as the tentative date for dinner at 6pm.

- c. Business and Economic Development – no updates
- d. Tourism – Commissioner Lewis reported progress with the Chinese travel market. JBS has contracted with Richmond hotels in 2019. An agreement for 9-22 rooms per night from April 2019 through March of 2020.
 - i. Tradeshow attended by agencies for international travel. Will attend in February. Lewis may attend another show in Anchorage depending on the date of the Zhoushan conference. He asked the commission about a potential source for Mandarin collateral. May need assistance with translation. Sara volunteered to translate.

IV. Report from staff on requested tasks

- a. Promo video –
 - i. the commission should provide a story board and KCRT could add pics that supported the message
 - ii. Eduardo Martinez will contact the city manager about an introduction message. Matzorkis suggested giving the manager an outline.
 - 1. Matzorkis suggested meeting with the mayor to update with the actions of the commission.