



Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission Meeting

March 10, 2021

4pm via Zoom

MINUTES

- I. Welcome and Roll -
 - **Present: Commissioners Leonard Berry, Margaret Lee, Joseph Kong, Eric Peterson, Sara Zhao and staff Lucy Zhou and Trina Jackson**
 - **Absent: Commissioners Alex Golovets, James Lee and Stanley Li**
- II. Review and approve minutes from previous meeting(s).
 - **Leonard Berry made a motion to approve the January and February minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Eric Peterson and approved unanimously.**
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - Committee raised funds - \$288.71
 - City allocated funds - \$1,000
 - i. **Staff Liaison suggested considering a local anti-Asian hate campaign to support the Chinese community or starting a scholarship in Jim Matzorkis' name for local students to participate in the exchange program. The committee liked the idea of a scholarship as a tribute to Jim Matzorkis.**
- IV. Reports from subcommittees
 - Education – **Eric Peterson**
 - i. **West County Mandarin School - Expanding the international program to include Taiwan, he met with the education division of Taipei Economic and Culture Office to discuss a potential program to help to keep the cultural language exchanges going. Peterson feels it is beneficial to expand the program to include student exchanges, as well. Of course the program with Zhoushan and mainland China will continue pending COVID-19 protocols and government regulations. He is hoping to have a trip in 2022. Their F1 sponsorship status has been renewed. They will be able to accept students on F1 visas for a hybrid model program with minimal in person learning.**

ii. **WCCUSD is currently in negotiations with unions regarding returning students to in person learning.**

iii. **The District is working on an in person summer program. Peterson is looking into a summer Mandarin program and seeking teachers.**

- Economic - no report
- Tourism – no report

V. Pending Old Business

- Discuss planning a video conference with Zhoushan officials to communicate about the challenges that both municipalities are having and how it impacts our sister city relationship.

i. Suggested date and time –Lucy will contact Jason Huang to discuss.

Still unable to have a conversation with Jason

ii. Topics of interest –

1. Joseph suggested offering virtual English courses on Sundays that may coincide with a morning schedule for students in China.
2. Pre-recorded courses may be available to accommodate varying schedules.
3. Discuss offering virtual courses for 7th to 11th graders

The commission opted to hold off until a meeting is held with the Zhoushan Foreign Affairs Office

VI. New Business

- **Potential Scholarship Program for local students to participate in the exchange program once travel is open for such programming.**

VII. Other matters of interest

- **Peterson - Any changes in rate of investment from businesses in Richmond? Berry answered - Private companies are still trying to purchase stock. Many still waiting to see the impact of the coronavirus.**
- **Peterson – Has there been any changes in how China is supporting sister cities. Jackson answered - No changes**
- **Jackson – There has been unofficial conversations at the city level to require that sister city groups apply for non-profit status to raise funding for programming.**

- VIII.** Schedule the next meeting – **The next meeting will be held on April 14th at 4pm as scheduled.**
- IX.** Adjourn - **The meeting adjourned at 4:32pm**