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 4th 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/1BqwDywO4rSTIBc60LdWQw1FvSULRQSq?-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