Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
MINUTES

I) Call to Order

II) Reading and approval of minutes
   a. Minutes approved by Esther Takeuchi and Valerie Snider

III) Input on Agenda
   a. No input given by commissioners

IV) Commissioner Reports
   a. No reports

V) Important Business

1. JACL College Scholarship
   ○ Japanese-American Citizens League
     i. National Organization
   ○ Students can join for $17 and be eligible for college scholarships.
   ○ Esther is the point of contact.

2. Report on California-Japan Sister Cities Network Meeting
   ○ Meeting put on by the CJSCN and Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco
   ○ CJSCN provides support to the sister city and friendship city relationships between California and Japan to nurture and
cultivate long-lasting international relationships. Through its activities of enhancing and strengthening these relationships, CJSCN will promote peace and prosperity.

i. [https://www.caljapansistercities.org/](https://www.caljapansistercities.org/)

ii. CJSCN learned about the needs of different sister cities in California
   1. Succession of leadership
   2. Funding sources, lack of city support
   3. Not being connected with other sister cities

iii. CJSCN should be providing resources based on these needs.
   1. List of California sister cities and other related organizations:
      [https://www.caljapansistercities.org/resources](https://www.caljapansistercities.org/resources)

- Should we consider expanding business and cultural connections between Richmond and Shimada?
  i. Re-expand back into programs beyond student exchange.
  ii. Exchange of crafts people and artists.
  iii. Build business connections
  iv. Find community sponsors

- Considering the collection of business list from Richmond and Shimada.
  i. Consider possible role of the commission as a hub between businesses in Richmond and Shimada
  ii. Becoming a hub between businesses in Shimada and Richmond could be a possible funding source.
     1. Allow us to actually provide a value to potential sponsors.
  iii. The first step is generating a business list from both cities, then cross-referencing and seeing if there are potential connections.
1. We should also consider contacting the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

3. 2019 Summer Ambassador Applications
   - Applications are Due on December 15th
   - How are we doing on teacher applicants

4. Japanese Student visit in March
   - Check-in on Host family status
     i. Marilyn is out of town so we will check back on this.
   - Brainstorming itinerary ideas
     i. **Emphasizing locations where people to people connections are possible, less touristy locations.**
        ii. New Ferry to San Francisco
        iii. RYSE Center
        iv. Police activities League
        v. Richmond fire
        vi. Brooks Island
        vii. NIAD
        viii. Portumex
        ix. East Bay bikes
        x. Richmond rides
        xi. JSA activities
        xii. Washington Elementary
        xiii. Kennedy High
        xiv. Richmond High School
        xv. Tai Chi at the senior center
        xvi. Miller Knox Park
        xvii. The model train museum
        xviii. makerspaces in Richmond
        xix. Chevron and the Rod and Gun Club picnic.
        xx. UC Berkeley campus.
xxi. Temescal Neighborhood In Oakland
  ○ Discuss possibility of adding another adult member

VI) Good of the Order/Adjournment

Useful Information:

The next group of Japanese ambassadors.
  ● March 21st until March 31st.
  ● 10 days total
    ○ We are not sure which day they will be staying in the hotel
  ● One or two adults and 8 students.

The next group of American ambassadors.
  ● Applications due December 15th
  ● Must be delivered to Marilyn’s house:
    ○ Marilyn Lee
      2626 Tuller Ave.
      El Cerrito, CA 94530