

MINUTES
Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission
Wednesday, July 10th 2024
– (In-person + Zoom call (for non-Commissioners) –

Zoom Link (for non-Commissioners)

<https://ci-richmond-ca-us.zoom.us/j/81541002778?pwd=dmdUWmJzN3JTc05DQThGNmFPdVBpZz09>

Meeting ID: 815 4100 2778

Passcode: 020222

1. Call to Order at: 6:07 p.m.

Attendance:

(Highlighted yellow or checked in attendance)

Jamie Brown, Chair

Valerie Snider, Vice Chair-Treasurer

Maryann Maslan, Secretary

Arianna Rodriguez, Commissioner

Esther Takeuchi, Commissioner

Zelda Holland, Commissioner

Mindy Pines, Commissioner

Trina Jackson-Lincoln, Staff Liaison - via Zoom

Evan Sirchuk, volunteer to the Commission - via Zoom

Ana Speros - of the Hercules Sister City Association - via Zoom

Cesar Zepeda, City Council Member

Liana Ngo, volunteer to the Commission

2. Reading and approval of June minutes – **uncontested unanimous approval**
3. Agenda Review (to amend or remove but not to add) – **no changes**
4. Treasurer's Report – **Current balance \$13,514.95 includes transfer reimbursements from City for Sayonara party. Submissions successfully made by June 30th cutoff date.**
5. Other Commissioner Reports
 - a. Liana and Jamie met the outgoing Friendship Ambassadors and families at SFO and saw them off. **Reported nice, successful sendoff for the excited ambassadors and lots of luggage.**
 - b. CJSCN Zoom Session on "Next Gen Leadership." – **Jamie attended workshop at the end of May and brought up questions for her breakout group**

regarding how they were funded, were they part of their city or a non-profit and what were the advantages/disadvantages of each. She also asked how they kept the ambassadors engaged after their Japan visits and what programs do they sponsor/offer. Programs included high school student exchange, middle school science fair exchange via zoom, teacher and medical doctor exchange. Jamie mentioned the origin of the sister cities program by President Dwight D. Eisenhower:

"Two deeply-held convictions unite us in common purpose. First, is our belief in effective and responsive local government as a principal bulwark of freedom. Second, is our faith in the great promise of people-to-people and sister city affiliations in helping build the solid structure of world peace."

Sept. 11, 1956, White House Conference.

6. Old Business (to be actioned or archived)
 - a. 2024 Richmond Ambassadors
 - i. Fundraising to reduce cost to families for plane tickets
 1. To be discussed at August Retreat – **Move forward**
 - ii. Return - July 11th
 1. Welcome Ambassadors at SFO - Thursday July 11th, **12:30 p.m.**
 - b. Shimada Youth Ambassadors March 2024 Visit
 - i. Update on communication to Kennedy administration – **Jamie drafted letter to school principal which Trina will send out tomorrow with signatures of Jamie and Cesar. Primary concern for future school visits by Shimada students is to have at least one school administrator/faculty member with the group at all times.**
 - c. SCI Hajimari Project - Questionnaire now due August 1, 2024
 - i. **Jamie asked for a subcommittee to help with the content. Ana, Valerie and Maryann volunteered.**

- ii. Update on interviews with Esther, Marilyn Lee, Steve Pinto, Rotarian Janna Coverston, Nat Bates. **No update**

- 1. Evan will continue to work on interview(s) in the summer when he has time. **Evan will report at next meeting.**

- d. 2nd Annual Volunteer **& Host Families** Appreciation Picnic

- i. Scheduled for Saturday, August 10th at Shimada Park - From 11-1. Setup from 10:00 and cleanup until 1:30pm.

- Trina reported that the request for City support was submitted. No response to date.**

- ii. Develop Invitation List

- 1. Zhoushan and Regla Commissions, Hercules Sister City Association, CJCSN North Bay/East Bay Group (Oakland, Berkeley, Concord, and Vallejo) **JETAA is posting Summer in the Parks again this year. Discussion whether to engage with them. No decision.**

- Discussion to create and send out invitation flyer with RSVP.**

- Arianna volunteered to update last year's flyer.**

- iii. Event subcommittee formed: **Ana, Arianna and Mindy**

- e. Student Penpal Exchange between Shimada Daiichi JHS and ECHS Japanese Classes

- i. Next steps – **Arianna hasn't had a response from the teacher. Will let us know. School starts August 19.**

- f. Mid-year report to the City Council – **Jamie will present 10-minute multi-media report September 25.**

- g. Fundraising cooperation with Zhoushan & Regla Commissions – **Move to retreat**

7. New Business

- a. Vote to offer position of 2025 Adult Ambassador to John Iwawaki. **Motion passed.**
 - b. Review 2024-2025 Commission schedule – **General discussion of 2024-2025 calendar. Link to calendar:**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ng0EhaBO9v_OTszJeScDbMZ_9fY6_frsmIH50Sp_hi1g/edit?usp=sharing **Move up dates for ambassador and chaperon applications, selection process and travel arrangements. Several dates were suggested. No action was taken.**
Also, to have the Shimada summer visit dates confirmed earlier.
Continue discussion at retreat.
8. Calendar Look-ahead (note absences if any)
 - a. August 14th - Retreat
 - i. Returning Ambassadors and Chaperon will report on their experiences.
 - ii. Break with refreshments
 - iii. Discuss fundraising ideas
 - b. September 4th Commission Meeting
 - c. October 2nd Commission Meeting
 - d. November 6th Commission Meeting
 - e. December 4th Commission Meeting
 9. Good of the Order – **Applause all around.**
 10. **Meeting adjourned – 7:55 p.m.**