

Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission

Wednesday,

November 4th, 2020

---(Via Zoom Call)---

6:00 p.m. Shimada Room

440 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, Ca.

MINUTES

- 1.** Call to Order and Roll Call - The meeting was called to order at 6:15pm by Chair Evan Sirchuk. Other commissioners present: Valerie Snider, Jamie Brown, Maryann Jacobson, Chris Gioia, Council Liaison Bates and Staff Liaison Jackson
- 2.** Reading and approval of minutes – previous meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum
- 3.** Input on Agenda – no input
- 4.** Commissioner Reports – Chair Evan Sirchuk reported that Shimada Officials wanted the commission to confirm if Shimada could send their youth or not. Evan informed them that we don't have a vaccine yet and our city officials have indicated that the program is cancelled for 2021. He also sent an article from the SF Bee that indicated a report from the governor on the state of the virus in California.
- 5.** Important Business
 - The cancelation of the Shimada visitors in Spring.
 - The delegation scheduled to arrive from March 20th through the 30th remains cancelled. Chair Evan suggested a virtual experience to let the Shimada ambassadors practice their English with Richmond ambassadors.
 - Another idea expressed was an information/cultural fair where each of the commissioners and ambassadors could choose a topic and have a schedule for participants to learn about a topic of culture in Richmond. Commissioner Jamie Brown suggested requesting ideas for topics from Shimada.
 - Commissioner Maryann Jacobson - Virtual Tour of Richmond – EBCFPA, Richmond Rides
 - The time difference would have to be considered. 4pm our time would be 9:00am in Shimada

- Maryann suggested that Richmond send them a video to allow the Shimada ambassadors to come up with questions to ask Richmond
 - Jamie suggested having the program for a couple of days vs a series of days because they'll be on vacation. Shimada should be consulted on their ideas.
 - Evan suggested presentations from Shimada as well
 - Commissioners are asked to volunteer to complete a presentation – a link to a google doc was shared in the chat for commissioners to place their ideas
 - It is suggested that the Richmond ambassadors that were scheduled to travel to Shimada participate
 - Richmond students to read their HiCues (sp?) about Richmond
- Proposal from Shimada for the 60th Anniversary (2021)
 - Do a city report beforehand.
 - Richmond will ask Shimada to be considerate of the time difference
 - There may be a state official to address the group
 - Richmond may be able to send a gift box to Shimada. Commissioners could pitch in if someone would like to lead. Possibly sketches from Richmond artists. It was also suggested to ask Mayor Butt to sketch something to send.
 - Discussion Topics from Shimada – Theme: dreams hopes and tasks as we move forward (fall of 2021)
- Maybe future Joint Zoom meetings with Shimada commissioners in Japan
 - Chair Sirchuk suggested one joint meeting at 4pm Pacific time
- Calling or brochure for older members.
 - Jaime agreed to reach out to Yas Aoki and Esther Takeuchi regarding the Shimada Commission meetings, offer to teach them to use Zoom and to let them know that they are missed.
- Penpal opportunities with Shimada Residents
 - We still have four Japanese penpals ready for letters!
 - The penpals from Shimada are adults. The chair asked if commissioners were interested in writing.

- Cooking Exchange!
 - Post what you're cooking these days, to the Facebook group.
 - Pictures of your garden.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/553167191519313/>

- Evan asked commissioners to send their cooking recipes or gardening tips/successes and a greeting for him to post on the FaceBook page

6. Good of the Order/Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm