



Richmond-Zhoushan Friendship Commission Meeting

MINUTES

October 14, 2020

4pm via Zoom

- I. Welcome and Roll - Sara Zhao, Margaret Lee, Eric Peterson, Stanley Li, Joseph Kong, Eduardo Martinez, Lucy Zhou, Leonard Berry, Jim Matzorkis and Trina Jackson
- II. Review and approve minutes from previous meeting(s). Eric motioned to approve and seconded by Joseph. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- III. Treasurer's Report
 - Committee raised funds - \$288.71
 - City allocated funds - \$1,000
- IV. Reports from subcommittees
 - Education - All international programs are on hold until a vaccine is approved. The Mandarin immersion school is going well and at maximum capacity. The school didn't receive approval to stay in Richmond. Peterson will work on transportation for the Richmond and San Pablo students to be able to attend in El Cerrito. It is their focus to continue to serve the students from the Richmond and San Pablo communities. Peterson encouraged members to let him know if a vacant venue is available because they would prefer to stay Richmond.
 - Economic Development -- Joseph Kong reported that the real estate market is unstable and slow at this time due to the upcoming economic crisis. Property owners are losing income due to tenants moving out. Jim Matzorkis reported that 33,000 Richmond residents have applied for unemployment during the SIP. The Port is picking up from the slow down at the start of the SIP. Business has rebounded. Stanley reported that the tech industry is doing well and stable. Spending in the network structure has increased due to users being at home and more active. Lucy reported that Zhoushan is back to normal regarding commerce and business.

Stanley reported that large scale testing and contract tracing has kept the numbers in China to single digits in the provinces.

Jim reported that Hilltop Mall and the Ford Building are both up for sell.

- Tourism - In China and Japan, there is no tourist travel internationally. Automatic quarantine is mandated when entering the countries. Hotels are doing better in domestic travel in China and Japan.

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 – Jim and Lucy will contact Jason Huong to discuss.
 - ii. Topics of interest – Joseph suggested offering virtual English courses on Sundays that may coincide with a morning schedule for students in China. Pre-recorded courses may be available to accommodate varying schedules.

VI. New Business

VII. Other matters of interest

Continue the discussion on offering virtual courses for 7th to 11th graders to another meeting date.

VIII. Schedule the next meeting - November 18th at 4pm

IX. Adjourn