

Richmond Shimada Friendship Commission

Wednesday, August 1, 2018

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm. The following commissioners and staff were present: Yas Aoki, Valerie Snider, Marilyn Lee, Esther Takeuchi, Evan Sirchuk, Zelda Holland, Josh Miklich and Trina Jackson
- II. Reading and approval of minutes – The commission reviewed the minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Valerie Snider, seconded by Commissioner Esther Takeuchi.
- III. Input on the agenda – no comments
- IV. Commissioner Reports

Sirchuk – created an online photo gallery of the Richmond ambassadors in Shimada, Japan. Commissioners Sirchuk and Snider tabled at the World One Festival in El Cerrito to outreach for the commission. Several emails were collected at the World One Festival held on July 4th. Sirchuk will submit a receipt for the cost of tabling.

Holland – reported on meeting the Richmond ambassadors at the airport when they returned from Shimada.

No other reports.

- V. Important Business
 - a) Upcoming publicity opportunities:

Sirchuk wants to expand the pool of home stay families and hold conversation groups with members of the community to get more people involved. He also suggested opening up the welcome and sayonara dinner. The Sycamore Church in El Cerrito invited the commission to table at the September 16th Bazaar.

Snider – suggested publicizing the commission and friendship through Richmond Confidential, Next Door, and the Real Richmond on Facebook.
 - b) New website - Sirchuk created a new website at RichmondFriendship.org. The commission reviewed the site. The commission would like to link the site to the City of Richmond website.
 - c) Tea inventory – Eleven cases of tea were gifted to the commission from Shimada. The commissioners will give samples of tea and sell tea at the J-Sei Festival. \$5 per box, two for \$8 and \$25 per case. The festival will take place on September 9th at the El Cerrito Community Center.
 - d) Thank you note to Harada – Marilyn will send a Thank you note to Shimada

- e) Application for 2019 Summer Ambassador Program – A recommendation of raising the cost to \$1,800 was made because the cost was \$1,790 per person. Sirchuk suggested keeping it at \$1,700 and focus on fundraising. Esther suggested asking employers for funds to subsidize the cost for the ambassadors. Richmond Republic, Mechanics Bank and a direct appeal to former commissioners. Sirchuk motions to keep the cost at \$1,700 seconded by Snider. The motions passed unanimously.

Note:

Sycamore Bazaar – Sirchuk (set-up) 11am to 2pm & 5-6pm, Zelda 4pm to 6pm, Snider 2-3pm, Marilyn 3-4pm and Josh from 4-5pm.

J-Sei – Takeuchi, Josh all day

Will recruit Richmond ambassadors for both events to table.