

July Sister City Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2022

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Present: Bill & Kandy Lewis, Eileen Bergeson, Erin Harnish, Francis Hearn (phone), Marie Boisvert (phone), Lars Pedersen. There was a quorum. Chris Bailey, President of Lower Columbia College attended.

Minutes of April 26, 2022 were approved with nomination and seconding and passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: Agenda Item One

Eileen discussed committee burn out and there was discussion of the city providing administrative support per a conversation with Kurt, e.g. to take minutes or to handle Public Disclosure. Discussion of need to separate duties (to better spread out the duties of the commission).

Erin nominated Lars for Secretary, second by Francis, vote was unanimous, he was appointed. Eileen agreed to continue as chair given the support of commission members.

Erin offered to be vice chair due in support of Eileen as chair to scheduling issues Eileen's and Erin appointments were approved unanimously.

Chris mentioned Keiko was contacting LaDonna Page of Kelso Sister City.

Discussion about new time for meetings; idea of noon dismissed in favor of after hours.

Monday or Wednesday suggested as candidate day, Erin spoke of the need to have Eileen ask Tammi Edwards about if either/both days are i) open and ii) available for people's schedules.

Eileen will poll everyone by email to select a day and time.

III: Reports on Projects:

a) Report and discussion about International Festival by Marie and Frances, reporting a lukewarm reception, wavering about whether to continue next year (we had no main activity nor enough room this year). Discussion of activity ideas such as tea ceremony, Marie suggested using visiting students as helpers next year. Eileen reported the location of our table at the festival was noisy and not conducive to quiet communication/explanation. Erin brought up the idea of a picture board with pictures of visiting events. Marie brought up having a focus for a theme as helpful.

b) Squirrel Fest: Like International Festival, would benefit from more focus—a theme. Do we truly have the plan and the people to carry out a good event?. Francis says she could put in a few hours. Erin mentioned helpers, possibly high school and Frances' ESL students. Activity ideas: Erin says writing names in Japanese would be fun, and the Japanese students currently visiting can be the ones writing

and interacting with the public. Requirements: Tent (Bill said he'd handle it), registration (Kandy will proceed), and backdrop art is (cherry blossoms, etc., kind of like shower curtains) missing. Steve Moon might have them. We need to send email blast to everyone to locate.

Chris Bailey asked to have us find out, perhaps from Tammi, the annual budget along with list of approved/disallowed items (food, etc.). Kandy said we should ask the rest of the group for volunteers. Volunteers needed! Frances will tap a couple of students to cover the later afternoon shift of the festival. Chris offered to pay the registration fee upfront.

c) Squirrel Bridge. Welding teacher David Pittsley is off for a season, and we said that's okay since we're aiming for next year. Other welding teacher Natasha Allen should have it done by the end of the year. Chris will store it on LCC campus until we make installation plans. Timing? Near 7/4, near Squirrel Fest perhaps, and could Wako send someone to be here?

Keiko will contact Atomi for a file of their logo for bridge (to go with LCC logo)? How about the obverse/reverse? How much/what's in English and what's in Japanese? How about signs that hang from the bridge for part of it? Discussion of which trees to place it on. Let's come up with ideas for design.

d) Kandy's letter exchange report. The response was good, and students were quite excited, often asking their pen pals about favorite bands, whether we've tried some Japanese food, etc. Letters were sent in return to Japan to answer the questions asked in the first letters. Activities, band, sports, etc. were discussed. Some letters were sent individually and one as a class.

e) Frances says Nippon Dynawave Director of Support Services Brian Wood wants to attend a meeting and also wants to have 8-10 of us to go there on a tour.

f) Frances brought up School Gardens, but it was tabled (cut for time).