

July Sister City Meeting Minutes October 12, 2022

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Present: Lars Pedersen, Keiko Pedersen, Eileen Bergeson, Frances Hearn, Angie Wean, Kandy Lewis, Erin Harnish (phone), Mr. Brian Wood of Nippon Dynawave, Travis Ruhter

Call to Order, Roll Call, Minutes approved by motion (Lars), seconded by Angie, passed unanimously

School gardens trip planning report: Will work in groups of five Longview students, have a couple of Japanese LCC students attached to assist. Ian of the program has asked we bring, in case there's not enough, extra veggies. Frances will ask Ian what veg is available, and we will prepare around that. Masami Kusakabe, an adult student, will be helping. Frances will ask Masami to pick up and bring the Japanese students. Keiko will do the first session and will report back about how it went, pointers to improve, etc. Angie will organize a press release.

Squirrel bridge report: Eileen summarized of progress so far our guest. Eileen is working with Natasha at LCC about the more finalized details. We are thinking about installing it along with the centennial celebration. Finding a location with two appropriate trees continues.

New business: Our visitor from Mr. Brian Wood of Nippon Dynawave introduced himself and Nippon Dynawave with a brief history of its history since the 1970s. They would like to organize a tour for commission members, with one of the Japanese staff guiding the tour. An overview of their liquid packaging products. Being a mill, tours are not very common, so it will be a neat opportunity. This will happen after Oct 31 once a COVID related requirement is relaxed. Two tours are proposed, one for commission members and another for Atomi students. Brian asked for an informal history of the LCC-Atomi, as well as its basis in the sister city program's activities, which Keiko discussed.

School exchange program: Atomi has decided to resume their visits, Feb. 19 - Mar. 12, 2023. They have just begun the orientation process in Japan, with ten students signed up (we'll need hosting, of course), and one chaperone. Due to cost and conflict, Atomi is not exchanging with any other, say European, schools and are instead focusing on LCC.

Wako International High School also plans to resume visits, according to Travis. Help in finding host families will be needed, with home visits, etc. Travis now stops teaching classes by end of morning due to his role, so he looks forward to being more available. Mar. 17 - Mar. 29 is the intended visit date for Wako Kokusai. Travis is working to see if leadership camp can be timed with the high student visits. Keiko led discussion about funding for help during the high school program, and Eileen said she'd ask after it with Kurt Sacha.

Eileen will be absent next meeting, so Lars will run the meeting in November.