

July Sister City Meeting Minutes February 8, 2023

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Present: Eileen Bergeson, Lars Pedersen (phone), Keiko Pedersen, Kandy Lewis (Bill as guest), Frances (phone), Angie Wean, Steve Moon, Erin Harnish, Guest: Chris Bailey LCC President

Call to Order, Roll Call, had quorum. January meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Squirrel Bridge: Nearly complete as shown in email, request by Chris Bailey for some kind of dedication. LCC will display the bridge for now until it's placed. Discussion of tree(s) location suitable for permanent placement. Finding lined up trees is tricky. Aiming to finish fabrication within two weeks before the LCC welding instructor takes leave.

Nippon Dynawave tour report: Frances reports we are still looking to find a date. She would reach out again.

Atomi visit: Keiko reports progress on scheduling, events such as the gathering at city hall to greet on Feb. 22. She will email with more details. The group will not visit Seattle as they have done in the past, in part due to inflation. Keiko will send invites to the March 10 farewell luncheon in the LCC cafeteria conference room.

Atomi has expressed strong interest in a summer program as well as the winter program. Extended discussion of Atomi Visit alumni who are now returning to attend LCC.

High school visit: There will only be six students rather than the usual ten students. Transportation will be simpler. Transportation to and from the airport could be done by LCC van. Chris will pursue this, and Keiko doesn't mind driving. After arrival, Chris will lead a tour of LCC, and other events on the weekend are discussed. Keiko learned she was granted time off from work, so she will be able to assist with the program. Last month her availability was questionable. Driving should be okay since Keiko will be under contract (since she'll in fact be available).

LCC Newsletter: Chris explained Marie's ideas about regarding how visiting students can work and help to earn back part of their tuition. Chris wants a newsletter made advertising the exchange programs and benefits, and two Japanese students found work being a part of this.

Dates for October citizen visit: We have decided on Oct. 17-23, and Keiko will send a confirmation email. We are not yet certain regarding student participation. They predict 17-25 participants. Gathering options include Mill City Grill, LCC's Rose Center. Eileen brought up gift bag ideas and donations for items to go in. There will certainly be Longview Centennial swag, but there are concerns about cost (if not donated or discounted). Mr. Yoriguchi emailed Keiko that Wako Kokusai High School doesn't have a Longview curio case. We need to solicit donations for items they can display at their school.