

July Sister City Meeting Minutes April 12, 2023

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Present: Eileen Bergeson, Lars Pedersen (phone), Keiko Pedersen, Kandy Lewis (phone, Bill as guest), Frances (phone), Angie Wean, Travis Ruhter, guests were Russ Brewer, Eric Halverson

Call to Order, Roll Call, had quorum, previous meeting's minutes approved unanimously.

Reports on Projects: **Atomi** visitors had a wonderful time. The summer exchange program is planned. Aug. 6-20 for ten students and one chaperone. Fourteen students visited in during the spring program. Three full time students from Atomi attend LCC right now, with more to arrive even as a few return after one year.

High school visit was also very successful, with Travis reporting a great time had by the six students. The host families really got involved and attached, and recruitment for next time is progressing.

Keiko and Chris Bailey will travel to Japan in May again for recruitment.

Squirrel Bridge is built and two suitable trees are being sought out. It should be in place for the citizen's visit in October.

School Gardens miso program: it was well received before the program was halted due to air quality (wildfires).

Frances can be available for 5/24 1-3 PM time. She will confirm the dates and whether it is one day or three.

International Festival Booth: Do we want to have a presence? Not much interest was expressed.

Fall visit: Oct 17-23 citizen delegation trip, with students will have more information forthcoming. April 1 saw many Japanese staff changing departments.

Russ Brewer guest: high school visits (from Longview to Wako) could be funded through scholarships. He had many ideas about fund raising events, and their requirements. The Mark Morris Foundation could be engaged for a donation to International Club. He spoke to a great deal of experience and will engage with Travis and the school district. Supervisor travel costs won't need to be fundraised for.