

Sister City Meeting Minutes August 9, 2023

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Present: Lars Pedersen, Keiko Pedersen, Eileen Bergeson, Erin Harnish, Kandy Lewis, Steve Moon, Francis Hearn, Angie Wean

Minutes of July meeting, approved as written. Motion by Kandy, second by Angie, unanimous pass vote.

Membership and bylaws review: Angie went over our bylaws with focus on membership requirements (such as a Chamber of Commerce employee versus a Chamber board member) and attendance duties. We need someone from Lower Columbia College as well as the Longview School District. The school district requirement is proving hard to fill after Travis' departure. Marie can no longer continue to attend, so Keiko will become the school representative for LCC. A high school representative ought to have as a chief trait the drive and ability/willingness to find host families. In the past, the schools themselves found host families and practically ran the program for the student visits, which was a great boon. Angie will pursue the changes to the bylaws and prepare it for approval signature.

We discussed the letter sent to members who haven't been around recently, and Steve Moon returned to attend. The wording could be softened,, but it did its job. Erin suggested more diplomatic wording.

Squirrel bridge: Eileen reported the bridge is finished and will be viewable at Squirrel Fest before it is installed.

Atomi summer visit: 10 students from Atomi arrived on Sunday for two weeks. Frances reports they are a great and eager group, taking well to the program and classes. Their host families are working out well.

Wako citizen delegation visit: City staff and representatives will visit along with citizens. Six of the guests would like to stay in a hotel and six would like a homestay experience. We will need to find up to six homes, depending on whether there are couples. Working on the itinerary is of chief importance. Eileen and Erin are doing good work on this. As an event, the Mt. St. Helens visitors center (Sequest/Silver Lake) may be a better choice than a Dynawave tour. LCC has hosted meals in the past. Eileen will talk to Chris Bailey regarding. Gift bags need items assembled. Some hotel group guests have enjoyed in the past day visits to homes for a few hours, and we will reach out to people who have day hosted in the past.