

Sister City Meeting Minutes March 12, 2025

City Hall, Small Conference Room

Call to Order 5:15 PM, **Roll Call, Present:** Lars Pedersen (phone), Keiko Pedersen, Russ Brewer, Judi Smith, PJ Peterson, Kandi Lewis (phone), Steve Moon (phone)

Absent: Keiko Pedersen (excused)

Guest: Chris Collins assistant city manager

Previous meeting minutes approved unanimously after motion made by Erin.

Wako Kokusai Program Update: Keiko was absent, so Erin gave the group (and Chris) the details of past Wako high school visits. Erin had met with Kari Montgomery to discuss school district involvement. This year high school visit is largely determined to be impractical, but Keiko is in talks with Wako and Kari and Kiz about a potential visit at a different time than historically common. School district support to address the issues of timing and finance is important. The outcome of the Kari Kiz meeting will determine whether we may be able to have a fall visit program. Recruitment of host family candidates off-cycle is suggested to better gather hosting resources. Chris gave us input about a potential host family application process on the city website, and Steve suggested Google Forms etc. It was pointed out that the city website page for the commission shows an incorrect meeting date, which needs correcting.

Atomi program: Keiko will discuss next meeting

Sister City Delegation Planning for 2025: We await more info from Wako about timing and possibility. Ideas for event ideas we exchanged such as the usual city facilities, Mt St Helens, use of the city mini bus and driver for excursions, more.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. Next Meeting: Apr 9, 2025, at 5:15 PM