

## Sister City Unannounced Meeting Minutes August 13, 2025

### City Hall, Small Conference Room

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

Jeong Sheen was invited but was unable to attend due to a conflict. She's expressed interest in establishing a Korea program. Bogie McLaughlin was also unable to attend.

March meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Sister City group in Wako has been dissolved, largely due to aging of members. We received word that former Superintendent Okubo had passed, and Lars and Keiko had a telegram sent to his service. City support remains for the Longview Wako program, but it is largely unofficial now. Nami Serizawa remains in place as our main contact. Zoom meetings were suggested as successful means of cultural exchange. Keiko plans to visit Wako City Hall during a trip she has planned for November. Wako's "Longview Week" will continue. Much discussion about how to keep student exchange programs alive, including shortening the duration of the program to make finding families easier.

We look forward to meeting with Jeong and Bogi at our next opportunity. Expanding our programs could be beneficial.

We will discuss in the fall when to have another class to class Zoom session. It was very well regarded last time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.