

Edmonds Sister City Commission

Meeting Date: May 22nd, 2013

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

Attendance:

Pos. 1 Michelle Van Tassell	Pos. 2 Ray Olitt	Pos. 3 Open
Pos. 4 Marlene Friend	Pos. 5 Kay Vreeland	Pos. 6 Rita Bailey Ikeda
Pos. 7 Iyoko Okano	Pos. 8 Kody McConnell	Pos. 9 Joseph Fletcher
Pos. 10 Beth Fuhriman	Pos. 11 Jill Van Berkomp	Pos. 12 Paul Anderson
Student Rep. Michelle Rockstead		

Commissioners Absent: Marlene Friend (unexcused)

Staff Liaison: Carolyn LaFave

Guests: Lauren Price, Oleg Gorboulev, and Mara Vinson.

The Commission welcomed several guests. Lauren Price, who is the recommended candidate for the AET position, introduced herself. Ray briefly explained her outstanding background in Japanese language and culture. Some discussion followed

The Commission also welcomed two guests, Oleg Gorboulev & Mara Vinson of the Olympic Ballet, who are interested in working with the Sister City Commission. They expressed an interest in taking a group of dancers to Japan. There followed a short discussion on what form the exchange program could take and about a previous similar effort. These opportunities are being discussed with the Hekinian Delegation sub-Committee.

Agenda: Meeting Agenda was approved without corrections. Meeting minutes were updated to record adjournment as 8:40pm.

Treasurer's report: Kody expressed a need to supplement the application to the Hazel Miller Foundation with information concerning community-related cultural exchange aspects of the program. Aspects that were mentioned were the Mural Society, interest in Ballet Exchange, Floretum Garden Club relationship, Farmers Market, Arts Commission, Chamber of Commerce and others. The Foundation also asked in what way the Edmonds community benefits from our work.

Kody asked that any and all donations be forwarded to Kody. It was suggested that the membership/donation form and receipt be made available to all members by utilizing the Google Drive.

Kody also mentioned that he had obtained an estimate on the street banner – which would be used for the delegation visit and become an important piece of Commission history.

Committee Reports:

Chair's Report: Michelle reported the feedback from her presentation to the City Council on May 7th included a suggestion that the Commission can better advertise and solicit donations. Michelle also reminded everyone to check their City email. A request was made for provision of instructions on how to add the City mail account to iOS devices.

It was also noted that with Yoshi's departure, the Vice-chair position is open. Michelle asked that the current Commissioners consider the position.

PR Report: Kay reports that the last three weeks have seen Maintenance PR for ESCC: Guide to Edmonds update, Call for New Commissioner Press Release, and status updates on Facebook. It was also reported that MyEdmondsNews.com has a new "self-serve events calendar" on which community events can be added. Other community calendars exist on which we can add 'save the date' events. Kay will coordinate event updates.

Jill reports that the brochures are on the way.

Photographs taken on the Hekinan trip will be archived on the Google Drive account. Photographs can be delivered to Joseph.

Beth reports that a new display is being prepared for the Library in September. She asks for help in the preparation of the display. Paul volunteered to help.

An article will be produced by Beth for the Edmonds Beacon which will summarize the Edmonds Mayor's Delegation trip.

Staff Report: Carolyn is working to secure contract details for the AET with Hekinan. She and Iyoko are working on finalizing the information.

Student Representative Report: No report was given.

Official Correspondence: Michelle and Carolyn are working on sending official letters of thanks to the Hekinan officials. Iyoko reported that she made a request to Hekinan that the Hekinan volunteers and host families should be invited to visit Edmonds. These volunteers may be included in the culture night program.

Old Business:

Five-Year Plan: Tabled in interest of time.

25-Year Anniversary Planning: Michelle and Rita have been working on this behind the scenes and have provided several documents describing their efforts so far. These documents will be included in the meeting attachments. The group discussed the large work package that will be required and a sub-

committee was formed that will be responsible for the complete itinerary. The entire Commission will meet together following the sub-committee's planning meeting. June 10th was selected as the date for the special Commission meeting at 7pm.

Farmers Market: August 17th and Sept 14th have been allocated for Commissions booths, though there may be additional opportunities. We may be able to have raffle baskets again this year. Ray mentioned that there should be forms where people can sign up for information or volunteer opportunities.

Membership Drive: Marlene is working on this initiative.

ESCC Brochure: Brochure has been ordered and should be available soon.

Items Tabled:

Japanese Culture Class: Ray has made many contacts to enlist someone to offer this class.

Announcements: Japanese Ghost Stories at Otherworlds, Hazel Miller Plaza – has been rescheduled to June 1st, 6 pm.

Next Meeting: Special Meeting: Monday, June 10th. Regular Monthly meetings: June 24th, July 22nd, Aug 26th, Sept 23rd, Oct 28th.

Adjournment: 8:40 PM