

Agenda 5/19/2021

ZOOM Meeting

1. Call to Order: (do we have a quorum)
2. Additions/Deletions:
3. Approval of Minutes:
4. Financial Report: **Doreen**
5. Liaison Reports: (As applicable)
 - i) Chamber-**Tim is absent**
 - ii) City-**Anna**
6. Subcommittee: Latin Subcommittee - the Sister City of Interest Subcommittee actions-
Nicole/John
7. Old Business:
 - i) Student delegation-December 2021 (update on their next visit, update from Mayor?)-**Anna**
 - ii) Adult Delegation To Nyuzen 2021-**canceled for 2021**
 - iii) Digital data storage for pictures-purchased will arrive soon
8. New Business:
 - i) Update on Farmer's Market-**Azumi**
 - ii) Report from meeting with the Executive Director of the Chamber-**Azumi/Larisa**
 - (1) Brochure for the chamber
 - iii) Pictures and input on who we are for the chamber newsletter-**Azumi**
 - iv) New Email Address (fgcsc.info@gmail.com)
 - v) Review of Operation Handbook-**Azumi**
9. Next Meeting
 - i) Date
 - ii) Time
 - iii) Location
10. Adjournment



**TOWN OF
NYUZEN**

May 17, 2021

To Mayor Peter Truax,

Spring has come, and I hope it is accompanied by your continued health and well-being. We hear that a state of emergency has been declared for the state of Oregon following the continued spread of Covid-19. It grieves me to think of the current situation, and of the many hardships you must be facing in your daily life as you continue to live with the threat of this virus. I pray that, even in times like these, the citizens of Forest Grove continue to work together to stay healthy and safe.

Vaccination has started here in Japan, too, but a state of emergency has been declared for nine prefectures, including Tokyo, and the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase every day. In Nyuzen, we are still taking measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, as we little by little grow accustomed to this “With Corona”-lifestyle. However, our days are filled with much unease as the future of the Covid-19 virus remains unclear. We hope that this epidemic, which has thrown the lives of people across the globe into disarray, will subside as soon as possible.

That being said, we have some unfortunate news. Regrettably, given the state of Covid-19 in both of our respective cities, we must ask that the Sister Cities Adult Delegation visit to our town, originally scheduled for this June, be cancelled. We humbly ask for your understanding, as travel from America to Japan is not possible at present.

Regarding the Middle and High School delegation visit scheduled for this October, we imagine COVID-19 will continue to affect international travel for some time, but for now we are continuing to prepare as scheduled. Please allow us to check back in and update you as we monitor the situation.

Finally, I continue to believe firmly that the bonds of cultural exchange and friendship built between our two cities will persist unchanged into the future. Moreover, as two cities which stand united against the current adversity, I believe our trust and faith in each other will deepen even further. I pray that the citizens of Forest Grove may return to their usual lives of peace and happiness as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

**Haruhito Sasajima
Nyuzen Town Mayor**



A place where families and businesses thrive.

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Haruhito Sasajima
Mayor, Town of Nyuzen
3255 Nyuzen Nyuzen-machi
Toyama Prefecture 939-0693 JAPAN

Dear Mayor Sasajima:

I hope this letter finds you well, along with the people of Nyuzen. Thank for your letter and update on the status of your Country. Most importantly, the citizens of Nyuzen and Forest Grove must stay healthy and safe.

As you anticipated, I am informing you that Forest Grove is obligated to cancel the adult delegation visit to Nyuzen, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic barring foreign nationalities from visiting Japan. In addition, the Sister Cities Committee has asked me to inform you that they are obligated to cancel the Nyuzen student delegation visit in the fall as it poses serious concerns for the delegates and host families, especially if the statewide travel advisory is still under a 14-day quarantine for anyone flying into Oregon.

Below is an overview of our current situation:

- City of Forest Grove remains under a State of Emergency Declaration.
- Washington County is among 10 counties that moved back into the **“high”** risk category. Capacity limits for businesses, gatherings and additional activities are based on current activity by risk level. Social gatherings are limited to indoor six (6) and outdoor eight (8).
- Washington County submitted a Vaccine Equity Plan to the Governor's Office. The plan outlines their commitment to close the vaccination equity gap among communities of color and other underserved community members. If the Governor approves the plan and Washington County reaches 65% of people ages 16+ with at least one vaccination, our County can move back to the lower-risk category. As of today (Monday, May 17), the County had reached that level and was scheduled to be placed in the medium level. General vaccine supplies have yet to keep pace with demand. The recovery phased reopening plan is a county-by-county evaluation process. Even when Washington County moves to a recovery reopening plan, the County will need to continue remaining at a lower-risk category for an extended amount of time, which is still unknown.

On another note and as difficult as it is to mention, it has been one year since Sandy Garcia passed away. She died on March 7, 2020. Her husband, Jose, has been unable to hold a memorial service due to COVID prohibition of such gatherings. It is also with sadness that I report to you that Kazuko Ikeda's husband passed away earlier this year.

On a much happier note, Forest Grove will be celebrating its 150th Year Anniversary next year. The City was incorporated on October 5, 1872. Next year on October 5, we will celebrate our sesquicentennial, marking 150 years as a city, making it the oldest city in what is now Washington County. More information will be sent to you once the formal plans are set and invitations will be sent.

Finally, it is my firm belief that the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between Forest Grove and the Town of Nyuzen for 33 years will remain unchanged. I share with you my hope for happiness, good health and prosperity to the citizens and staff of the Town of Nyuzen.

My best regards to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Truax". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "Truax".

Peter B. Truax, Mayor
City of Forest Grove