

Forest Grove/Nyuzen Sister Cities Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 19, 2023
Meeting Location: Video Conference

Members: Present:

Nefedov, Larisa	Chair
Nowlin, Nicole	Vice-Chair
Anderson, Kermit	Secretary
Stenson, Doreen	Treasurer
Allen, Linda	
Beechwood III, John	
Stapp, Azumi	

Members Absent: Unander, Sig

Guest:

Others:

Blackmun, Rich	Absent
Ruggles, Anna	Staff Liaison
Wenzl, Malynda	Mayor, Liaison

- 1. Call to Order** Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Nefedov. Due to COVID-19 the meeting was held via Zoom conferencing. Members were variously in attendance at City Auditorium or connected remotely.
- 2. Quorum** Yes
- 3. Minutes** Minutes from the March 15, 2023, meeting were distributed and reviewed.
Motion: moved by Beechwood, seconded by Nefedov to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.
- 4. Financial Report**
 - a. SCC Account balance is \$5567.84. This does not include the \$275.00 in the Sandy Garcia Scholarship fund.
 - b. SCC Bottle Drop account is \$523.71. The Committee agreed to withdraw \$500 cash from the account for deposit into our regular account. Bottle Drop withdrawals are limited to \$99.90 per transaction. Stenson made the withdrawal in that amount and in turn deposited \$100.00 with the Chamber. She will make further incremental withdrawals for deposit into the Chamber account until the \$500 amount has been reached.

5. Liaison Reports a. Chamber (Wenzl)

- 1) Mayor Wenzl reported Chamber fundraising event was a success after having been suspended last year due to COVID restrictions.
- 2) City Council issues reported on include the council's attempts to find solutions to homeless issue in coordination with Washington County. The Mayor said that volunteers from the community are needed for the city charter review project currently underway.
- 3) The City is looking to consolidate their inventory of art object and proposed including the objects given to Forest Grove by the city of Nyuzen. Ruggles keeps inventory of the items received from Nyuzen and expressed a preference to keep these objects separate from the other city items. The sister city items would certainly be available for display if needed by the city.

b. City (Ruggles)

Ruggles reports April 25 is the target date for moving into the newly renovated city offices.

6. Subcommittees Updates—Latin American (Nefedov)

No report

7. New Business a. Vice-Chair Transfer of Documents

- 1) Stapp will transfer SCC documents previously resident on the Google Drive to Nowlin for redeployment on a suitable storage location for SCC access.
- 2) Stapp is unable to serve in the capacity of providing Japanese interpreting and translation services for the committee. Nowlin has agreed to take those duties on, specifically for the upcoming delegation to Nyuzen. Nowlin also volunteered to maintain email communication with Nyuzen.

8. Old Business a. Adult Delegation to Nyuzen

- 1) Ruggles reported Nyuzen can accommodate 14 visitors, 13 delegates and Truax granddaughter.
- 2) The list of tentative delegates is as follows: Mayor Wenzl and spouse, SCC Chair Nefedov and spouse, SCC Vice Chair Nowlin, Pete and Pat Truax, Kazuko Ikeda, and SCC member Beechwood. Two of the four remaining vacancies are earmarked for a City Councilor and a City Staff.
- 3) Ruggles has inquired of former host families as to their possible desire to go to Nyuzen as delegates but has not received any replies as yet.
- 4) May 1 is a target date for finalizing the composition of the delegation.
- 5) City Councilors and certain staff are being considered for inclusion in the delegation.
- 6) Preliminary estimates for the transportation and lodging costs of sending the delegation are approximately \$2400 per person.

- 7) Beechwood III reiterated and elaborated on his offer to create a suitable gift in recognition of the Nyuzen 70th anniversary. He presented a picture of a vase in the wabi sabi style as an example of a possible gift. Nowlin offered to contact a local artist for further consultation and possible collaboration.
- 8) Ruggles mentioned that the recent visitors from Nyuzen for our 150th anniversary celebration left behind their gifts from our city. The costs of shipping them to Nyuzen are in excess of \$1500. Therefore Ruggles is planning on sending them with the delegation.

b. Ukraine Sister City

K. Anderson and Beechwood III expressed the opinion that the proposal concerning possible sister city relationship with a city in Ukraine might not be appropriate for a traditional sister city agreement. Nefedov will seek input for possible involvement from select departments at Pacific University and report back at the next meeting.

9. **Next Meeting(s)** Wednesday, May 17, 5:00 pm
10. **Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.