

Forest Grove/Nyuzen Sister Cities Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 1, 2024
Meeting Location: City Auditorium and Zoom
Members Present:
Nefedov, Larisa Chair
Allen, Linda Zoom
Anderson, Kermit Secretary
Anderson, Jackie
Beechwood III, John Zoom
Jones, Ariana Zoom
Nowlin, Nicole Vice-Chair, Zoom
Stenson, Doreen Treasurer, Zoom
Unander, Sig
Members Absent: Blackmun
Others:
Phillips, Joyce Staff Liaison
Martinez, Karen City Counselor, City Council Liaison

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. by Nefedov.

2. Quorum Yes

3. Minutes

Minutes for the meeting of July 9, 2024, were distributed and reviewed.

Motion: moved by J. Anderson and seconded by Beechwood to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

4. Financial Report Treasurer Stenson

- a. Current balance \$4987.97.
- b. As of July 3 Bottle Drop cash account balance is \$145.00 and store credit balance is \$174.00.

5. Liaison Reports a. City (Martinez/Phillips)

- a. No Report from Martinez.
- b. Phillips Reported on the Vision 2040 Survey. Mayor Wentzel is hoping for a 20% response rate from the citizens of Forest Grove. The survey results will guide city leadership in formulating a vision for the future of our city. Phillips distributed a bookmark with a QR code link to the survey and encouraged all SCC members to complete the survey and in turn encourage friends and neighbors to do the same.

b. Chamber (Nefedov)

No Report—Chamber-SCC liaison mechanism still needs to be established. Attempts by Councilman Rippe and Pete Truax to secure a liaison arrangement from the Chamber leadership have to date, proved unsuccessful.

6. Subcommittees Updates—Latin American (Nefedov)

No Report

7. Old Business

Adult and Student Delegations from Nyuzen

- a. Nowlin reports no new information has been received from Nyuzen regarding their travel details. Activities on 10.29 will be adjusted accordingly when specifics are received.
- b. The mayor informed SCC that Nov. 1 would not work for the school day. Either the 30th or the 31st have to be designated as the school day. The committee decided to select the 30th as the school day because there will be a school assembly that day which may be a better choice. This does create the necessity to plan a simultaneous activity for the adults.
- c. Nowlin reported that she reached out to the Thornes re: Japanese star player, Tektronix, and Pacific University regarding invitees to the celebration dinner. She is waiting for responses from the Thornes. Tektronix staff have few if any currently employed who recall the origins of the sister city relationship but Nowlin is seeking further contact. Pacific University will have a representative at the dinner.
- d. K. Anderson reported contacting the manager of La Sierra Mexican Restaurant. The manager indicated that having a lunch buffet for the delegation upon their arrival in Forest Grove on Oct. 29. K. Anderson will follow up with him regarding details.
- e. Phillips reported that the people responsible for the Forest Grove Watershed tours will not schedule tours this far in advance due to uncertainty regarding the status of the conditions on the ground at the watershed in late October. It was suggested and agreed upon that a tour of the Public Safety Training Center would be a better alternative. The Fernhill Wetlands people are able to schedule a tour.
- f. Wednesday, Oct. 30-This is the school day necessitating a 7:30 drop off time for the host families. Suggestions for the adult activity included tours/visits to Sake One and Dauntless Wine Co. on Main St. Nowlin agreed to assume the task of arranging for the adult activities on this day.
- g. Wednesday, Oct. 30-Celebration Dinner-Phillips shared a save the date flyer with a Gratitude/Thanksgiving theme. She has put together a menu of traditional Thanksgiving items. The question of whether or not to serve alcohol. Various options were considered with no host bar being eliminated due to cost considerations. Other possibilities will require exploration and a final disposition.
- h. Thursday, Oct. 31, Halloween-Art activities in the morning are planned. Allen will be out of town but someone at Valley Art will be able to put on an appropriate

activity for both students and adults. Beechwood will also present a woodworking activity. The delegation will be divided into two groups and each group will participate in each activity. Total time for these activities are planned for 2.5 hours from 8:00 to 10:30.

- i. Friday, Nov. 1-The Public Safety Center activity will be planned for the morning. The afternoon is to be scheduled for students to spend time with their host families depending on the host family availability. The fire department tour is a possible alternate activity.
- j. SCC Donation-Nefedov suggested that the SCC donate funds to supplement the City funds already budgeted for this delegation.
Motion: K. Anderson moved that SCC allocate \$250 towards expenses incurred in hosting the Sister City Delegation from Nyuzen. Motion carried.
- k. Gift Bags: Phillips reported the city has backpacks and tote bags with the city logo to contain the usual type items assembled for the delegates.
- l. 35th Anniversary Gift to Nyuzen-Ideas for a city gift to Nyuzen included various artworks as water color painting, of tulips gifted to Forest Grove planted at various locations around the city. No decisions were finalized and will need further consideration.
- m. Host Families-Count of host families required needs to be determined. Nefedov and Phillips indicated potential candidates they will contact.

8. Next Meeting(s) Thursday, September 5, 2024, 5:00 pm at the Community Auditorium Conference Room and via Zoom.

9. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.