

Forest Grove/Nyuzen Sister Cities Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 23, 2025
Meeting Location: City Auditorium and Zoom
Members Present:
Nefedov, Larisa Chair
Allen, Linda Zoom
Anderson, Kermit Secretary
Anderson, Jackie
Beechwood III, John Zoom
Nowlin, Nicole Vice-Chair
Stenson, Doreen Treasurer
Members Absent: Jones, Ariana, Unander, Sig
Guests:
Others:
Blackmun, Rich Staff Liaison
Phillips, Joyce Staff Liaison
Martinez, Karen City Council liaison
Yakos, Claudia Chamber (Liaison), Director (Absent)

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Nefedov.

2. Quorum Yes

3. Minutes Reviewed

Minutes for the meetings of October 16, 2024 and November 14, 2024 were distributed and reviewed.

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

4. Financial Report Stenson

- a. Balance \$4988.13. This does not reflect expenses from the delegation visit last year which included a welcome sign and lunch expenses incurred by K. Anderson at La Sierra Restaurant. Invoices for these expenses will be submitted and payment reflected in the finance report at our next meeting.
- b. Bottle Drop credit \$330.36 and cash \$275.30
- c. Stenson said she will be requesting a Chamber audit of the SCC account for presentation at the next meeting.

5. Liaison Reports City-Martinez, Phillips

- a. Martinez reported on conversations in city council about the uncertainty concerning Oregon receiving federal funding for various programs due to Oregon state officials oppositional attitudes toward early actions by the new administration in Washington

D.C. As a possible consequence Sister City funding could be adversely affected. (Martinez in a follow up conversation with K. Anderson on Feb. 10 reported the Sister City funding for the coming year is secure.)

- b. Phillips reported on the city's Vision Labs 2040 Project. Vision Labs 2040 is part of the larger Forest Grove Forward project. In this phase citizens are being recruited to commit to two small group meetings to identify community priorities in the areas which include housing, transportation, recreation, and others beginning in February and March.

Chamber-Phillips for Yakos

- a. Phillips announced two upcoming events of the chamber, a state of the Chamber (past and future) lunch on January 27, and the 2025 Chamber Gala on March 8. Reservations for the Gala can be made on the Chamber website.

6. Subcommittees Updates—No Reports

7. New Business a. Fundraising-Nowlin

Nowlin will coordinate a meeting of the individuals who were identified at the November 14 SCC potluck meeting to work on fundraising ideas.

b. Adult Delegation to Nyuzen Dates

Nowlin has been in communication with Nyuzen and reports they would like our group to arrive for the Tanabata Festival which is July 7. Nowlin will present dates July 4 to July 11 for our delegation and draft an announcement and forward to Phillips for recruitment of delegates.

c. SCC Membership Issues

K. Anderson distributed the SCC roster noting that the membership status of all members needs to be updated. This led to a discussion concerning updated membership requirements recently established by the City Council that members of all committees and commissions must live or work within the municipal jurisdictional boundaries of Forest Grove. The question as to the exact nature of the SCC's relationship to the City of Forest Grove and the Chamber of Commerce was discussed and determined that clarification of these relationships is needed. The Committee in updating its bylaws in August 2020 indicated an intent to provide for an at-large membership designation for no more than two (2) persons who do not meet the residency of work requirements in order to accommodate the two current members who live in Hillsboro and Cornelius. However, that provision was never completed in the final version of the bylaws submitted to the Cities of Forest Grove and Cornelius.

d. Action Items

- 1) All SCC member are to complete membership application forms found on the city website.
- 2) Prior to next meeting Nefedov, Nowlin, Phillips, K. Anderson, and Yakos are to review all relevant document documents defining SCC, City of Forest Grove, and Chamber of Commerce of relationships and consult with Forest Grove City Manager as to the relationship, responsibilities, and lines of authority governing SCC, Forest Grove, and Cornelius and report findings at our next meeting.
- 3) Amend SCC bylaws to reflect the creation of an at-large category of SCC membership.

8. Next Meeting(s) Thursday, February 20, 2025, 5:00 pm at the Community Auditorium Room and via Zoom.

9. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.