

**Forest Grove/Nyuzen Sister Cities Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: June 15, 2026
Meeting Location: Forest Grove City Auditorium
Members Present: John Beechwood III (Member), Larisa Nefedov (Vice Chair), Nicole Nowlin (Chair), Doreen Stenson (Treasurer), Jeron Beaulieu (Member)
Guests Present: Rich Blackmun
Partners Present: Karen Martinez (Council Liaison), Joyce Phillips (City of Forest Grove Staff Liaison)
Absent: Claudia Yakos

1. Call to Order & Quorum

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Nowlin. Quorum was met.

2. Reports for Approval

a. Minutes

Minutes for the meeting in May were distributed to all committee members.
Unanimously approved.

b. Finance - Treasurer

SCC account balance \$3978.16.

■ **Bottle Drop Accounts**

• SCC Acct.	Cash: \$498.14	Credit: \$597.77
• K. Anderson Acct.	Cash: \$unknown	Credit \$unknown
• Blackmun Acct.	Cash: \$164.49	Credit: \$197.39

3. Partner Reports

a. Chamber of Commerce - Claudia Yakos

Claudia referred Joyce to the City of Cornelius to discuss sister city programs as they were previously listed on this committee but have not participated. Joyce connected with the City Manager and referred Nicole, who also connected with the City Manager. They will be invited to the October dinner and an offer has been made to meet about any sister city ideas in the future for the City of Cornelius.

b. City Council - Karen Martinez

None.

c. City of Forest Grove - Joyce Phillips

See below under City MoU notes.

4. Old Business

a. Student Delegation Planning

Not started yet.

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- b. Adult Delegation Planning - Paused til 2027 (OR > JP) and 2028 (JP > OR).*

5. New Business

- a. News from Nyuzen*

No changes.

- b. Chamber MoU*

This is still pending double signatures.

- c. City MoU*

Joyce provided an update that the MOU was being reviewed by city executive staff, though progress was slow due to the police bond initiative on the November ballot.

- d. July Farmers Market Tabling*

The committee discussed plans for the July 22nd Farmer's Market event, where they will have host family applications and activities including origami demonstrations. The group approved a motion allowing Nicole to spend \$50-100 on printing flyers and QR codes for the event.

- e. Other Committee Business*

The committee also discussed the upcoming visit of the Governor of Toyama Prefecture in August and the need for host families for high school students from Toyama Prefecture visiting Portland for two weeks in July. Coordination is needed with Kermit regarding the closure or transfer of the third account in his name, and confirm if he can zero out the balance or transfer it to the city account.

6. Next Meeting & Adjournment

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at the City Auditorium and on Zoom. Meeting adjourned.