

Denver Takayama Sister Cities Committee  
Minutes  
Robin Dee Post, DTSC Secretary  
August 18, 2020

Meeting Call to Order: Steve Comstock called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 7:15PM

Attendees: Gil Asakawa, Manfred Chemek, Rachel Clements, Kitty Comstock, Steve Comstock, Kay Fahlberg, Gail Jackson, Fred Kaplan, Kevin Lance, Marie Miller, John Newton, Misty Newton, Paul Noguera, Robin Post, Michele Quackenbush, Susan Weller, Lauren Zelek.

Introductions: Steve Comstock introduced the DTSC chair-elect, Gil Asakawa. Committee members introduced themselves. In September, Gil will become the official chair of the committee.

Minutes: were sent to committee members by Steve Comstock.

Treasurer's Report: N/A

Report from the DSCI Board Meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> : The Board is focused on adding new members and fund-raising. Fred Kaplan, Board member, needs a list of student and adult trip alumni. The DSCI Board plans to build an association of people who have travelled through DSCI. The Board would like to have reunions over the next few years, in which travelers to multiple countries will be invited to reunion events together.

Recent Events:

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virtual Celebration – To celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sister cities friendship, Denver and Takayama each produced a video. The Takayama video included the mayor's proclamation and musical performances. Video editors are needed to edit and shorten the videos, which will then be made available to committee members.

Upcoming Events:

Virtual Book Club on September 1<sup>st</sup> – The club will discuss the book, "If Cats Disappeared from the World" by Genki Kawamura.

Culture Day (Bunka No Hi) – November 7<sup>th</sup> – Kay Fahlberg reported that the event will occur virtually. It will focus on an introduction to the culture of Takayama and may include a walking tour of Main Street, as well as interviews with people in Takayama.

## Trips to Japan:

Adult introductory trip – This trip will be scheduled for either the spring of 2021 or the fall of 2021 once more is known about safe travel to Japan.

Student trip – A student trip would typically occur in summer 2021. It is also contingent on safety of travel to Japan.

## Requests:

A Junior high school in Takayama would like to set up a friendship relationship with a Denver junior high school. Steve Comstock has looked into this, but has not found a school available for partnering. Committee members expressed the opinion that this might be a difficult time to start a new program in a Denver School.

Gift to Takayama – John Newton raised the idea of sending Takayama a gift representative of Denver, which might reflect cowboy culture. The committee consensus is that this idea might be discussed more in the future, when there is a major Takayama/Denver event.

Next meeting will be on September 15th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Web page for keeping current with Denver Takayama events/activities

<http://trainersfriend.com/takayama/>

This site is updated regularly. Please note at the bottom of the floating box on the left is a link to a page where you can check out volunteering needs and sign up to help. Or the direct link is

<http://trainersfriend.com/takayama/Volunteer.shtml>