

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

Meeting Call to Order: Steve Comstock called the meeting to order at 6:45PM.

Attendees: Manfred Chemek, Kitty Comstock, Steve Comstock, Bradley Craig, Sherry Cree, Kay Fahlberg, John Newton, Misty Newton, Robin Post, Jenny Mae Samson, Jim Tait, and Sarah Williams

Minutes: were sent to committee members by Steve Comstock.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Comstock reported that the fund-raising for the yatai renovation exceeded our goal. Jim Tait reported that we currently have a balance of \$20,290.25

Funding Requests:

- * ISP to host Denver Takayama web pages. John Newton is doing research on ISPs. The cost may be approximately \$1,000 a year.
- * Dedicated PC. Steve would like us to have a PC for the committee. John suggested that we get a USB hard drive for the committee instead. A decision will be made in the future.

Upcoming Events (more info on the Takayama web page):

- * February 20-23. Colorado Dragon Boat Film Festival. There will be a Japanese film shown on Sunday.
- * March 21-22. Colorado Anime Fest. We will have an information booth at the festival on Saturday and Sunday. John will also give two talks: 1) anime tourism in Hida-Takayama, 2) an introduction to travel in Japan. John and Misty Newton are coordinating our events at the Anime Fest. Volunteers are needed for the booth. If interested, contact John or Steve.

Status of Trips to Japan:

Coronavirus impact on travel in Japan. We received a letter from Akila Tanaka. Some public events in Japan have been cancelled. Tanaka-san expressed concern that there may be a risk of contracting the virus for students (and others) traveling to Japan. If even one student is

affected, the entire group would undergo quarantine. The Takayama mayor's office will keep us informed re: the impacts of coronavirus.

Student exchange to Japan (June 3-18, 2020.) Sarah Williams reported that ten students have been selected to travel to Japan. The first orientation will be on Saturday. The trip costs \$3500. The students will have the opportunity to raise money by putting together a fundraiser.

60th anniversary visit from Takayama is scheduled to occur during Cherry Blossom Festival (June 26-28). There will be a delegation from the mayor's office and a citizen's delegation. Our role in these events includes:

1) Further restoration work on the yatai will be completed in advance. We will need to move the Yatai so that it can be exhibited in the Cherry Blossom festival. We will have a booth at the Festival and the City of Takayama will have a booth next to ours.

2) The Denver mayor's office will host a dinner at the Denver Botanical Gardens on June 26th. Committee members Steve Comstock, John Newton, and Kevin Lance are part of the planning committee for the dinner.

3) Our committee will plan activities for the citizen's group during the day on June 26th, if Yoshi Nakasone (M.E.M. Travel) does not make plans for them. Volunteers will be needed. Misty Newton suggested the possibility of taking our visitors to the Wild Animal Sanctuary.

60th anniversary trip to Takayama is scheduled for October 3 – 15, 2020. There will be an optional pre-trip to Hiroshima.

Other Discussions:

Social media. We need someone to manage our presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Marie Verrett Miller has done a wonderful job in the past, but is no longer able to take on this responsibility.

New program to be considered by the committee. Steve Comstock suggested that we think about a program "Our American Friends" that we develop in conjunction with JBAR. This program would be designed to provide social contacts and opportunities to converse in English for Japanese families who are employed and living in Denver.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.