

Denver Takayama Sister Cities Committee
Minutes
Robin Dee Post, DTSCC Secretary
April 16, 2019

Attendees: Wayne Berve, Kitty Comstock, Steve Comstock. Sherry Cree, Kay Fahlberg, Teri Galvez, Gail Jackson, Debbie Kacik, Kevin Lance, Ryan Leong, Claire Magrath, Paul Noguera, Robin Post, Jenae Sanchez, Jim Tait, Charlene Thai

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Comstock at 7:15PM.

Treasurers Report: Debbie Kacik reported that we have a balance of approximately \$15,000.

Upcoming Events:

The Colorado Anime Fest will be held at the Denver Marriott Tech Center from April 19th to 21st. We will have a booth and give two presentations at the Fest. Steve asked for volunteers to run the booth.

Japanese meal and a movie will take place on May 4th at the Jewish Community Center at 6PM. Paul Noguera has chaired this event. The film is "Wood Job!". Bento boxes will be provided by Charlene Thai. There will be a short silent auction.

City of Takayama Park clean-up will occur on May 18th from 9AM to noon. Wayne Berve of the Denver Bonsai Society will be present, as will Claire Magrath.

The Japanese wood-working festival will take place on Saturday May 25th from 10AM to 5PM at 913 E. 75th Ave.

High school students from Takayama will visit from August 1st to 6th. Host families and volunteers are needed. Teri Galvez and Jenae Sanchez offered to help plan for the student visit.

Trip Planning:

A proposal was discussed to put together a three year agreement with Kay Fahlberg's travel agency to help with arrangements for new outbound trips. Any proposal will need to be cleared with the DSCI Board. MEM would continue to work with us on student trips.

The "Introduction to Japan" trip led by Gail Jackson and Kitty Comstock does not, at the present time, have sufficient participants to go forward. Steve will put out additional information about the trip.

The “Japan in depth” trip will be led by Kevin Lance and Sherry Cree in October. Kevin shared a tentative itinerary, which will include two Matsuri festivals. Kay Fahlberg has helped with the trip planning.

2020 Trips:

- * Student exchange to Japan

- * The Japan Olympics trip is being planned for late July/early August. The trip will end before the start of the Olympics. Paul Noguera expressed interest in the trip.

- * The 60th anniversary visit from Takayama will probably occur during Cherry Blossom Festival week. We will host a gala for the visitors, which will probably include the Takayama Wind Orchestra.

- * The 60th anniversary trip to Takayama will probably be scheduled for the fall 2020.

New Directions and New Opportunities:

- * Jobs. We may be able to work with the Japanese Business Association of the Rockies to serve as a conduit for people who want to work in Japan or come to the U.S. to work.

- * Volunteers. We may want to serve as a conduit for people who want to go to Japan to work on long-term projects.

- * Long-term student exchanges are another possibility that we might investigate further.

Next meeting will be May 21, 2019

Reminders: web page for keeping current with Denver Takayama events and activities:

<https://www.denversistercities.org/takayama/>

Note: at the bottom of the box on the left is a link to a page where you can check out volunteering needs and sign up to help. The direct link is:

<https://www.denversistercities.org/takayama/Volunteer.shtml>