

Denver Takayama Sister Cities Committee
Minutes
Kitty Comstock, Acting Secretary
February 19, 2019

Attendees: Kitty Comstock, Steve Comstock, Kay Fahlberg, Kevin Lance, Gail Jackson, Colleen Thumm, Claire McGrath

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Comstock at 7:20PM.

Minutes: Steve Comstock indicated that we would cover items discussed in the minutes in tonight's meeting.

Treasurer's report: Steve Comstock reported, in the absence of the Treasurer, that our bottom line has remained consistent at approximately \$16,500.

Recent Events:

Yatai Restoration Update:

Steve Comstock reported that following the recent visit of Members of the Takayama Friendship Association, he received a phone call from Akila Tanaka of the Takayama Mayors Office, expressing concern regarding our committee's long-term ability to maintain the Yatai.

Steve expressed concern regarding who or where Akila's questions were coming from. Gail Jackson mentioned that in her recent visit to Takayama last October that perhaps there are changes going on within the TDFA.

Steve would like to see the project go forward because it is creating a different way for Denver and Takayama members to work together. The future of the Yatai location and the exact amount of work to restore it still need to be worked out.

The DSCI Annual Meeting was held at the Jewish Community Center on January 24th from 6 to 9 PM. It was well attended and the program was very informative. Kay Fahlberg received the Takayama Volunteer of the Year award. She worked on many projects in 2018 including our very successful Culture Day Program. We thank you Kay!!

Steve attend The Kohaku singing competition held at the Buddhist temple on Saturday January 26th. It was well organized and one of the Consul General Staff participated.

No one in our group had attended the JET Alumni Association Shinnenkai or the Day of Remembrance.

Setsubun. Was celebrated on Monday, February 11th at Sonoda's. Dinner cost was \$37 per person. 17 members were in attendance, the Colorado Sake Brewery donated two bottles of Sake and discount coupons for their products. The overall atmosphere at Sonoda's seemed different this year. Items such as tempura were not offered and even though people got plenty of food, perhaps it is time to change the venue or format.

The world premiere of *Gravitas*, a musical work by Michael Frank, past president and current treasurer of DSCI, will take place at the First Universalist Church, 4101 E. Hampden Boulevard on Saturday, February 16th. Several DSCI members attended this fantastic production.

The Kunming Committee celebrated Chinese New Year at the Empress Seafood Restaurant on Sunday February 17th. Their silent auction took in around \$1,400.00 and was well attended.

Currigan Memorabilia: Prints and photos of Japan have been donated by the Currigan family to the city of Denver. The ceremony to hand over the artifacts to the library was postponed and Jamie Seemiller the Acquisitions Librarian of the Denver Public Library recommended that we keep these materials, share them with the committee and others and keep the entire collection together until we are really ready to turn them over to DPL. Much of what we received was displayed at last night's meeting and we will have them available at other meetings.

Possible Future Programs

Movie and a Meal – the date is to be 4/20/2019 which now conflicts with the Colorado Anime Fest dates of 4/19-21/2019.

Paul Noguera has found an interesting venue downtown across from Union Station and he sent out a doodle survey with several movie choices for members to vote.

Following discussion it was decided that not many of our members attend the Anime Fest and that the Movie and Meal event could still be held. We will discuss this with Paul when he returns from his Asia trip.

Trip Planning: The rest of the meeting was devoted to the upcoming trips

Adult trips to Japan 2019

Introduction to Japan trip will be led by Gail Jackson and Lauren Zelek , June 6- ? David Hoskins has had to drop out of this project .Twenty-five people have expressed interest in this trip.

Japan in Depth trip will be led by Kevin Lance and Sherry Cree, in October. Seventeen people have expressed interest in this trip. We talked about possible destinations in Japan.

Student visit from Japan in 2019. LEADER / ORGANIZER IS NEEDED. Students from Takayama will visit Denver August 1-7,2019. Arriving August 2, along with a small delegation of students and adults who will work on our yatai.

Rugby World Cup trips are planned by David Hoskins to occur in September and October 2019. These are not DSCI trips.

2020 Events:

Student Exchange to Japan (2020)

Topics discussed briefly:

Japan Olympics trip. Is being planned for July 24th to August 9th. Lauren Zelek has expressed interest in leading this trip.

60th anniversary trip to Japan – plans in process

60th anniversary visit from Takayama. We will plan a reception and dinner for our guests. It is likely that the Takayama Wind Orchestra will also visit Denver to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2019.

Reminder: The web page for keeping current with Denver Takayama activities is:

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

This web site is updated regularly. 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>

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Comstock, acting Secretary