

July 16, 2019 meeting - Minutes

Introductions

Call to order: 7:05 PM

Attendees: Steve Comstock, Kitty Comstock, John Newton, Misty Newton, Kevin Lance, Gail Jackson, Dan Scherzer, Jenny Mae Samson, Debbie Kacik, Claire McGrath, Sophie McGrath, Susan Weller, Matt Weller.

Reminders from the minutes - planning for July and August (see below)- *Minutes taken by Gail Jackson in Robin Post's absence.*

- *Treasurer's report- no report available as Jim Tait is absent from today's meeting. Steve suggested amounts are largely unchanged. Financial report from Cherry Blossom Festival unavailable.*

Other reports

- *Yatai maintenance -Yatai is located at Asahi Foods (Charlene Thai's warehouse) In October, 4 Takayama high school students and 4 chaperones or teachers will visit Denver to refurbish/repair the yatai.*
- *Geotech will host the yatai for us*
- *visit from Takayama- On 7/24 and 7/25 Ono san and Akila Tanaka san will be visiting from Takayama in Denver; visits with Derek Okubo, Kimiko Side, Sakura Foundation are planned. Schedule is tight; a dinner with Akila has been planned for evening of 7/25. Robin Post has made reservations for members who can participate.*
- *shipping components for yatai repair is in the works*

Upcoming events:

** Students visit from Takayama 8/1-6; 8 girls, 1 boy; report- Kitty gave report of plans to date; Sayonara dinner to be held at Geotech at 6:30 on 8/5; 6 families have volunteered to host; Kevin made a nice promotional flyer to find hosts; Teri Galvez is making an online potluck sign up for the Sayonara party; Steve will send a "save the date" reminder; Robin Post helped with itinerary for the "Red Rocks" day; Kitty needs more volunteers; Gail J volunteered to meet with her later.*

** Tanabata 8/11 at Sellers' home- set up will begin at 4:30 PM; event begins at 5:30 PM, earlier this year; Consul General will attend; this is a family friendly event with shakuhachi player, somen, writing wishes on papers to hang on the tanabata tree, and the Sellers beautiful tea house/garden featured.*

Trips planning - proposal for three year agreement on new outbound trips

** Adult trips to Japan, 2019*

Japan in Depth - Kevin Lance and Sherry Cree leaders - status report- Kevin gave report; so far there are 5 people signed up, and possibly John and Misty Newton also joining the trip; signup deadline is 8/22/19 and all committee members are urged to promote this trip.

** Student exchange to Japan (2020, probably early June) -MEM will assist with this trip.*

* Olympics trip (July 24 - August 9; opening ceremony July 24; tickets ~ \$250-\$1500)-Kay will assist with this trip; Kevin and Steve met last weekend to begin to plan this trip. Jennie Mae will check on available grants.

11 interested in going and staying for Olympics; Lauren Zelek interested in leading)

Initial cut: July 15-25

* 60th anniversary visit from Takayama; probably Cherry Blossom Festival week;- in 2020 huge party

Probably include visit by Takayama Wind Orchestra (their 50th anniversary)

* 60th anniversary trip to Takayama - looking towards mid-September- in 2020

New directions, new opportunities

* jobs - international work day proposal; interest but no action

* international youth baseball organized by Pacific Rim, July 27; John & Misty Newton,- *It was noted that this is the same week as the Dragonboat Festival where only the Ulanbataar Committee from DSCI is participating. Colorado Rockies "rock pile" tix may be available for the students?; Debbie Kacik will provide DSCI flyers for the event; this is first year for this event, so unsure of what to expect. The Newtons will staff the booth for DTSC/DSCI at this event. The following people are sponsors: Niall O'connor, Todd Cornell, Christine Wanifuchi, Michael Frank*

* working with JBAR; Aurora Global Fest, August 17; volunteers; next step - JBAR members are members of JASC; opportunities to volunteer at the Aurora Global Fest are available.

Next meeting - August 20, 2019

Meeting ended at 8:45 PM; Members stayed to informally discuss various events and trips.

Reminders: web page for keeping current with Denver Takayama events / activities: <https://www.denversistercities.org/takayama/>

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 even sign up to help! Or, the direct link:

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