

March 19, 2019 meeting - Minutes

In attendance:

Wayne Berve, Steve Comstock, Kitty Comstock, Sherry Cree, Gail Jackson, Kevin Lance, Debbie Kacik, Paul Noguera, Charles St. John, Colleen Thumm

**Steve read a message from Akila in Takayama; He is starting a new job and will be our main contact in the city office at Takayama as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. He may be visiting Denver this summer, perhaps as a chaperone for the students coming in August.**

**Treasurer's report – Jim was unable to attend the meeting, Debbie gave the report: committee fund balance is currently \$16,402.68**

Upcoming events:

\* Colorado Anime Fest 4/19-21: **we have volunteers to work the table but, could still take more, We will need to do two presentations (one on Sat./ one on Sun.) Paul said that he would present one of the days and work the table the other day.**

\* Japanese meal and a movie - now set for 5/4 at the Jewish Community Center: **We have put a deposit down for the venue. Jason Suzuki is providing the movie – we need to come up with more movie options – everyone felt that the one that was provided would be too “dark” – hoping for something lighter with a broader appeal. We will be reaching out to other Japanese/American groups to help increase attendance. We would like to do a silent (or live) auction this year.**

\* Takayama Park Cleanup is set for May 18 (9am – noon) **need volunteers.**

\* Cherry Blossom Festival 6/22-23: **need volunteers to work the booth.**

Trips planning - formed trips sub-committee

\* Adult trips to Japan, 2019:

Introduction to Japan **(June 6 to 17)** - Gail: need one more leader: **Kitty may be the second leader for the trip. Despite the close timeline, we will proceed with the trip and hope to get enough participants by the April 25<sup>th</sup> deadline. Steve will send out the link info tomorrow and Debbie will get it up on the DSCI website.**

Japan in Depth - Kevin Lance and Sherry Cree leaders: **Sept 30 – Oct 14. Kevin and Sherry will be in contact with travel agents to see if using more of their services for this trip will be our best option.**

**\* Student visit from Japan (2019): 10 students will be here in late July/early August. We would like to add an education component to this incoming trip – need to set up some university visits/tours (MSU Denver & CU Denver). We would also like to include that on the next outgoing trip to Japan.**

New directions, new opportunities:

**Steve talked about the ideas that he shared with the Chair and Vice Chair of the DSCI board. He will also share with the Japanese Consul General.**

Next meeting - April 16, 2019

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>