

Denver Takayama Sister Cities Committee
Minutes
Robin Dee Post, DTSCC Secretary
May 21, 2019

Attendees: Manfred Chemek, Kitty Comstock, Steve Comstock, Gail Jackson, Janet Lammens, Mike Lammens, Kevin Lance, Devron McMillin, Robin Post, Jenny Mae Samson, Dan Scherzer, Jim Tait, Matt Weller, Susan Weller

Call to order: Steve Comstock called the meeting to order at 7:15PM.

Treasurer's report: Jim Tait reported that Setsubun and the Japanese Movie together yielded a profit of \$700. We have approximately \$17,000 in our account.

Previous events:

Colorado Anime Fest on April 19-21. We had a booth at the Fest. Steve Comstock gave two presentations. Steve did not feel that the Anime Fest was productive for us. He recommended that we skip the Anime Fest next year.

Japanese meal and a movie. Paul Noguera chaired this event. Forty people attended the film at the JCC on May 4th. People enjoyed the film and the bento box dinner, which was provided by Charlene Thai. The auction was also successful.

City of Takayama Park clean up. The annual park clean-up was scheduled for May 18th. Unfortunately the weather was inclement that day. Another clean-up day will be scheduled.

Upcoming events:

Memorial Day services will be held at Fairmount cemetery May 27th at 11AM at the Nisei Veterans Memorial.

Cherry Blossom Festival. Will occur June 22-23. Please contact Susan Weller if you would like to help staff our booth. Akila Tanaka may visit Denver during the festival. If so, a dinner will be planned to welcome him.

Planning for trips:

Takayama high school students will visit us from August 1-6. Teri Galvez and Jenae Sanchez offered to help plan for the student visit. Rei Hirakawa and Manaka Mitsuki will be the chaperones. Steve will work on host families. We will need drivers, plans for a pot luck party.

The Japan in Depth trip will be led by Kevin Lance and Sherry Cree. Kevin gave a status report and presented the flyer for the trip. The itinerary includes visits to: two matsuri, a sake festival, and an overnight stay in a Buddhist temple.

2020 trips:

- *Student exchange to Japan probably in early June
- *Olympics trip
- *60th anniversary visit from Takayama will probably occur during Cherry Blossom Festival week. We will host a grand party. It is likely that the Takayama Wind Orchestra may also come to Denver to celebrate their 50th anniversary.
- *60th anniversary trip to Takayama is likely to be scheduled for mid-September

Discussion: Traveler's responsibility page on our website. Steve presented a first draft. Responsibilities are also covered in orientation. The committee thought the responsibility page was a good idea to be developed further.

New directions and opportunities:

International Work Day proposal. Steve plans to discuss with DSCI the idea of an event aimed at providing resources for people who would like to work in one of our sister cities. Steve is also considering ways to make resources available for people who would like to go to Japan as nonprofit volunteers. Gail Jackson will gather information about existing resources for volunteering.

Youth baseball proposal from Lawton Shinsato of Pacific Rim Cultural Exchange. This organization is sponsoring an international youth baseball event in late July. Teams from Japan and Colorado will be invited to play. Booths will be available free of charge for organizations that would like to participate. Steve asked for volunteers to make arrangements for a booth for our committee on Saturday July 27th at this event.

Next meeting will be June 18, 2019.

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

<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>