

## MINUTES OF THE BEAVERTON SISTER CITIES ADVISORY BOARD

**February 25, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Board members: Linda Wilson, Jeffrey Ressler, Michael Kalkofen, Kellie Stellingwerf, Wambui Machua, Natalie Verdi, Penny Hanson, Jason Dempsey, Karen Yeong, Stephanie Somanchi and BSC Program Support: Cynthia Rozanc.

Guests: Dr. Katsu Ozawa, Ogaki City representative; Evelyn Orr, Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce; Daniel Vasquez, Cultural Inclusion Coordinator.

**ABSENT:** Mark Fagin, City Councilor, Diana Larowe

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Linda.

**MINUTES:** Minutes for January moved by Jason Dempsey, seconded by Jeff Ressler. Minutes were approved after presentations of guests.

- **Friendly Cities:** Dr. Ozawa introduced the previous hosted exchanges of students with Ogaki beginning 23 years ago. Visiting Beaverton City Hall – April 2, 3 p.m.

Background: technology sector supports the subsidiaries of Toyota and Honda. Ogaki City is located about 200 miles west of Tokyo. The city population is about 150,000 people.

Dr. Ozawa presented a brochure describing Ogaki City. He has sponsored exchanges since 1990. Over 1000 people from the area have visited. This year 3 chaperones and 45 students will visit the city. About 30 have visited from Japan. Japanese protocol for visits includes a letter and gifts. This will occur in the visit scheduled for April 2, 3 p.m. at City Hall. Mrs. Tanaka, President for the Women's International Association. (W.I.N.G.) will represent Ogaki City since the current mayor, Mr. Ogawa, is not able to visit. Currently, Mr. Ogawa is the mayor. Since he is involved in the current elections they may wait before considering sending a delegation.

Some board members had questions about the local community. Dr. Ozawa describes it as high tech in supporting Toyota and Honda, subsidiaries. Winemaking is another industry in the region. The city is noted for its spring water and has a name of 'city of water.'

Interest in Beaverton is cultural and business exchange.

The board voted in January to pursue the Friendship City status. Dr. Ozawa offered they are happy in hearing our recent decision to continue dialog, and he will continue in his role to facilitate the channel of communication. Friendly City status is limited in scope and the mayor to mayor relationship does not require formal approval by city councils.

- **First Friday:** Guest Evelyn Orr presented

The downtown Chamber members invite civic groups to participate in First Friday events. First Friday typically runs from May to October, with the final event of the year in conjunction with the holiday tree lighting in early December. Last year was the largest attendance to date due to the Friday event directly followed the holiday tree lighting.

The downtown group organizes the area directly around Broadway and uses the Lanphere business to server for necessary parking. They would like to use community groups during these weeknights to enhance the activity.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

- Exploring other additional Sister Cities

Diana and Wambui met with Cynthia to work on how to proceed with possible city partnerships. Wambui mentioned that they would like to work with more research on the topic and follow some of the same processes as with the current Sister Cities. They will present this topic at the April board meeting.

- Holiday Open House. The board discussed participating in the downtown First Friday event rather than attend the library open house. The board tabled the discussion until next month to allow more time for members to think about the change. \* Related to First Friday item on the agenda.
- Exchange with Cheonan, South Korea for July 2013: Four students already have expressed interest. The city delegation is comprised of Mayor Doyle, Councilman Mark Fagin and their spouses. The official invitation was included in an earlier email to the board. There are two more spots available for students in July 2013.
- Beaverton Parade: The board's participation in the parade will be further discussed once we know the date.
- South Plaza, Round project: The area designated for Sister Cities will include pavers that contain the name of the sister city, the date the relationship was established and the cities' logo. The final design was voted on the Board last year via email. The pavers are 8'x2'. The South Plaza project goes to city council for vote on March 19. A presentation for public view is scheduled for March 11. This is only to present the art work.
- International Festival July 27: Kellie reported that this year includes food, booths and dance groups. Sister Cities will take part in the event which runs from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. Kellie reported that the meeting held on February 11 started the event planning. There are only a few changes to the layout of the field where the booths are located and an expanded scope for kids to create crafts and other out of the box activities. Bill Flood is now the planner in charge. A similar application process will occur for obtaining a booth and for food vendors. Cynthia will bring a sign

up at the March meeting to cover 2 hour shifts for the event. Volunteers can help Natalie and Kellie plan. We do need to come up with activities for our booth.

- Exchange ideas: all city exchange (Sister Cities) funds submitted for Sister Cities' events become available for use during the July to June budget cycle. The board discussed the dedication of the plaza and to also celebrate anniversaries. The potential event would be next year. If we host a delegation, it would be part of an official visit and we would schedule some time to attend events and unscheduled activities.

**Beaverton Intercultural Committee:** This group needs new members. A call out feature of the Your City article includes information to contact Cynthia. Currently no new people expressed interest.

### **Recap and action items**

New Sister Cities and committee work

All exchange dedication

International Celebration follow up items

Beaverton Parade date?

Your City News Articles due. April, Jason. June, Natalie

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by Stephanie Somanchi seconded by Kellie Stellingwerf. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:** Penny Hanson – slightly amended by CL Rozanc